



NEWSLETTER

8 August – 14 August 2022

Revive
Restore
Reach Out

NRCC News and Notices

Sabbath Time: Rest, Renew, Reconnect

You are invited to this retreat day and rest from your work. As God did on the sixth day, we will celebrate that what we have done, what we do, is very good! We will bless our living and one another, held and loved and deeply blessed by God, our Creator.



Kate Scholl

Pastoral Theology Team & Registrar at
United Theological College (1987 –
2000)
Eremos Events and Communication
Coordinator
St Vincent de Paul Society

Registration by 21st Aug. Gold coin donation on the day.
For more info and an RSVP, please contact Alex
(alex.chow@optusnet.com.au) or phone 0414 846 426



▪ **Hammonds Preaching on Aug 21**

Mike and Jacky will be sharing their mission journey as well as a God's message with us. Please invite your friends or family members to this wonderful opportunity to know what the Lord is doing through the hands of His followers.

Community News and Notices

SIMWorld 2022 – “By Prayer for the Nations”

Hear what God continues to do around the world through SIM and pray together with us!

SIMWorld Online Event

Saturday 13th August 2022

7:30pm - 9pm (AEST) via Zoom.

Or watch together with Jacky & Mike at their home in North Rocks

Let them know if you're coming 0493 064495 or mike.hammond@sim.org

Registration & more details
sim.org.au/simworld



Interfaith dialogue opportunity: Abraham Conference

Theme: “Recovering faith in Faith”

Summary: Historically, the Abrahamic religions shaped lives and civilisations. In the last century, they are becoming increasingly marginalised, seen as a matter of private devotion and personal morality at best, or divisive and violent at worst. But religions remain a powerful social force. With the issues that we face in our globalised, pluralist world, how can we recover faith in Faith?

Time & Date: 2.00-4.00 pm on Sunday, 14 August

Venue: Amity College, Auburn Campus, 26-28 Kerr Pde, Auburn

Tickets: \$15 (full price) or \$10 (concession)

Register at: <https://events.humanitix.com/2022-abraham-conference>

2022
ABRAHAM CONFERENCE

Religion for the 21st Century:
Recovering faith in Faith

Historically, the Abrahamic religions shaped lives and civilisations. In the last century, they are becoming increasingly marginalised, seen as a matter of private devotion and personal morality at best, or divisive and violent at worst. But religions remain a powerful social force. With the issues that we face in our globalised, pluralist world, how can we recover faith in Faith?

SUNDAY, 14 AUGUST
2.00 PM - 5.00 PM
AMITY COLLEGE, AUBURN CAMPUS
26-28 KERR PARADE, AUBURN NSW 2144

KEY SPEAKER: GERALDINE DOOGUE AO (Journalist & Radio and Television Presenter)
MODERATOR: JOHN CLEARY (Veteran ABC Broadcaster)
PANELLISTS: RABBI MOSHE GIVENTAL (North Shore Temple Emanuel), REV DR ROB MCFARLANE (Presbytery Relations Minister, Uniting Church in Australia), ASSOC. PROF. SALIM FARBAK (Sydney University Law School)

TICKETS: \$15 OR \$10 (CONCESSION)
Purchase at: events.humanitix.com/2022-abraham-conference
Mindful of COVID, masks are recommended.

Affinity, AMUST, COLLEBAN CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN-JEWISH RELATIONS, New South Wales Council of Christians and Jews, DIocese of PARRAMATTA, uniting church, INDIAN CRESCENT SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

The Uniting Climate Action Network invites you to an on-line forum on electric vehicles.

Are you interested in making the switch to an electric vehicle but have questions?

To provide some answers to these and other questions, the Uniting Climate Action Network has organised an on-line Electric Vehicle Forum. We are very pleased that Dr Jake Whitehead, the Head of Policy at the [Electric Vehicle Council](#) has agreed to be our main speaker. He will explain the benefits of EV's, how they work, their current availability in Australia, and factors that affect their cost and public demand for them. There will be time for participants to ask more questions after his talk.

The forum will take place on Wednesday September 7, from 7.00pm – 8.30pm. [You can register for the event here](#) and the Zoom link will be emailed to you before the evening. If you have any questions, please contact Jon O'Brien in the Uniting Climate team at jobrien@unting.org or 0477 725 528



The poster is for an 'Electric Vehicle Information Forum' held on September 7 from 7pm to 8.30pm. It is a free online event. The text asks if the reader has ever considered buying an electric vehicle or is just curious to learn more. It states that cars are responsible for about half of all transport emissions in Australia and asks if switching to an electric vehicle is the right investment. The guest speaker is Dr Jake Whitehead, Head of Policy at the Electric Vehicle Council. The forum is aimed at the wider church community but open to all. A 'Register on Eventbrite' button is prominently displayed. Logos for UCAN, Uniting Church, and Uniting are at the top. A small bio for Dr Jake Whitehead is at the bottom right.

▪ Uniting Church Assembly and Synod News Links

Uniting Church Assembly: <https://uniting.church/news/>

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

▪ Moderator's Flood Appeal to help devastated communities

The Uniting Church NSW/ACT has launched a special appeal to help those communities devastated by record-breaking floods.

<https://nswact.uca.org.au/communications/newsroom/media-release-moderator-s-flood-appeal-to-help-devastated-communities/>

Reflection of the Week

When we go through tough situations, Satan takes the opportunity to throw his fiery darts. He tempts us to entertain our worst fears and anxieties so that, if we do not guard our hearts with God's Word of Truth, we risk becoming unglued. Things were no different for the Thessalonian Christians. Satan was using false teachers to sow seeds of doubt and despair as they suffered persecution in order to undermine their faith in Christ.

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17. Because the circumstances in Thessalonica in the first century were so dire for believers, when they received news from false teachers that Jesus had already returned, they believed the report and were devastated. They had rightly placed their hope in Jesus, knowing that He would one day set right everything that had gone wrong. But then, doubt began to grow in their hearts.

So in 2 Thessalonians, Paul exhorted these believers "not to become easily unsettled or alarmed" by the false teachings that had been attributed to him (2:2). He assured them as they suffered affliction for their

faith that Jesus had not forgotten them. At the same time, he also warned them that before Jesus returns, things will get much worse. He wrote, "Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed" (v. 3).

For the last two thousand years, Satan has been trying to thwart God's salvific work in the world. He aims to frustrate God's plans by unleashing his hatred toward the church to keep us from the joy of redemption in Christ—to keep us from worshiping God in the Spirit and in Truth. And his final, desperate push will be through "the man of lawlessness"—the Antichrist (v. 3).

You would think that Paul's message to expect even more desperate circumstances at the end times would have caused the Thessalonians even greater despair. But Paul was in fact assuring them—and us—that all who belong to Jesus will be able to stand firm, even during that difficult hour. For, Christ promised us: "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand" (John 10:27-28).

Prayer: Father, thank You for Your amazing promises that carry me through every trial. Thank You that no one can snatch me from Your hand. May I find strength in You and bring glory to Your name. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39).

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
Intergen: Fiona & Cathy Mission: Steve Turner

North Rocks Community Church

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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/>