



NEWSLETTER

20 - 26 November 2023

Revive
Restore
Reach Out

NRCC News and Notices

▪ **Guest Preacher**

This Sunday is 'Christ the King' Sunday, the last Sunday of the current church year. Ross Mackay will be preaching the message "At the Crossroads".

▪ **Planning for Advent & Christmas**

The Worship Team is looking for anyone who would like to help plan services during the Advent / Christmas season. If you would like to help please talk to Cathy.

▪ **Advent Studies by Rev Dr Chris Walker**

If you are looking for a resource for a Bible study group or for private reflection this has been recommended by presbytery.

Chris Walker has written three Advent studies over the past three years covering each of the readings in the three year lectionary. This coming Advent begins Year B of the lectionary. The Coming of Jesus Christ: past, present and future -4 studies on hope (B)

Each study covers the biblical readings but also has a quote, a story and reference to a hymn/song and prayers. There are questions for consideration or discussion.

The studies can be readily found on the MediaCom Education website:

www.mediacomeducation.org.au Click on Shop then Advent studies.ill be leading us in our Mission Planning / discernment process - the questions below will form the heart of our conversation and worship on Sunday .

Dates for your diary

▪ CC and the ministry team leaders have discerned together and put the dates of the events/activities for this year on our church calendar. Please feel free to contact any of the leaders if you feel led to participate or want to share your thoughts and ideas.

NRCC 2023 Calendar

Nov		
19	Congregation discussion	Presbytery
Dec		
3	1 st Sunday of Advent	
3	Congregation discussion	Presbytery
10	Potluck Lunch	Sue
24	Christmas Eve	
25	Christmas	

Community News and Notices

▪ **Uniting Church Assembly and Synod News Links**

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

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

Reflection of the Week

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-26.

All the parts of the human body were designed by our Creator to work together. Thus, when one part fails to function as it was designed, the whole body is affected. Every part matters to the whole—and the same is true for us, the body of Christ.

The Bible compares the local church to a body to demonstrate that every member of that body is essential. You see, God has given every believer at least one spiritual gift, and these gifts are what determine a person's function in the body of Christ. Every gift is incredibly important to the healthy functioning of the whole.

In Paul's day, the Christians in Corinth were confused about spiritual gifts. Some envied the more attention-getting gifts, like miraculous powers and speaking in tongues. Others thought they were too good for the gifts they had received, the quieter gifts such as wisdom and helping. As a result, many gifts went unused or, worse, were twisted into sources of pride. But this kind of behaviour is an affront to the wisdom and love of God. The proper response to our King's gracious gifts is humble gratitude and joy in using these gifts to serve Christ and His church.

As God's church, we are one body but many parts. We will not all have the same jobs to accomplish (see 1 Corinthians 12:17). God has given the church a variety of people with differing spiritual gifts for both our individual and corporate blessing. The gifts you've been given were chosen for you by God, and God knows what He is doing. So, if we are to see our local church thrive, we must discover what our gifts are and exercise them with diligence and humility.

When it comes to the body of believers, we need each other—every part—in order to be healthy and strong. We must support and protect each other. No part of the church can function properly on its

own. And often the people you never see up front at church are among the most critical members of the body of Christ. Though they serve quietly in the background with administration, faith, giving, knowledge, and more, they are seen by our Father in heaven. So, when it comes to spiritual gifts, let's use them not for self-promotion but for humble, loving service to the body of Christ.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for the gifts You've given me. May I humbly use them to serve You and Your church for Your purposes. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be" (1 Corinthians 12:18).

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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, or Pastoral Care Team.
Robyn: 0424791916

Ministry Leaders

Church Council

Chairperson: Cathy Nelson

Secretary: Steve Turner

Treasurer: Anne Crabb

Team Leaders

Worship: Cathy Nelson Discipleship: Alex Chow Pastoral Care: Robyn Pike Fellowship: Sue Vasilevska

Intergen: Cathy Nelson 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/>