

NEWSLETTER

11 – 17 December 2023

Revive
Restore
Reach Out

NRCC News and Notices

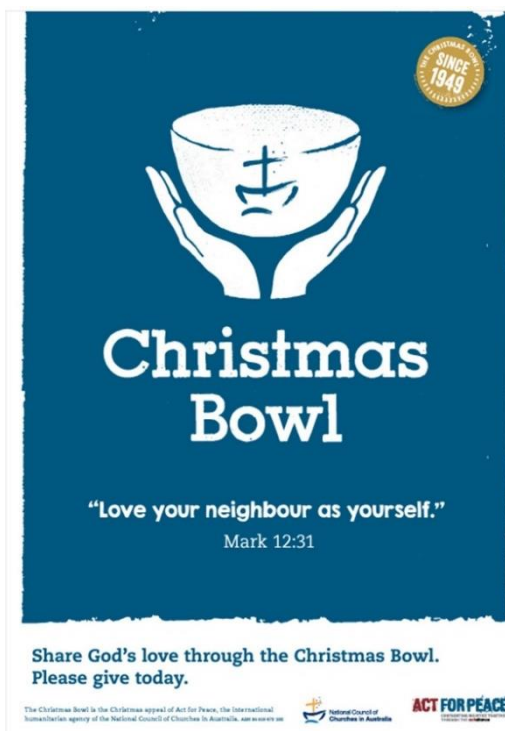
Advent 3: JOY

Guest Preacher

This Sunday Rev Ross Mackay will be preaching.

Freedom to Flourish - latest news from Mike & Jacky

For the latest news from Mike & Jacky please click [here](#).



Christmas Bowl Appeal

So much our preparation for Christmas is about remembering all the things we have to do to ensure our celebrations go smoothly. In the midst of all our planning and preparation it can be easy to forget the needs of the most vulnerable in our world including refugees. I encourage you to pause and reflect on the birth of Jesus light in the darkest of places, enfleshment of God's loving remembrance of humanity, and on the story of Jesus the refugee who flees with his family because of political instability and persecution. As you open your heart again to Jesus coming amongst us I hope you also open your heart to refugees in the world today and remember

them in your prayers and giving by supporting the Christmas Bowl. **Rev. Sharon Hollis,**
President, Uniting Church in Australia

We will have a bowl at the back of the church each week leading up to Christmas. Donation envelopes are available or you can donate online at <https://christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au/>

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

Dec		
3	1 st Sunday of Advent	
3	Congregation discussion	Presbytery
10	Potluck Lunch POSTPONED	Sue
24	Christmas Eve—9am A Carol Service	
25	Christmas Day 9am	

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

More Than a Babe in a Manger

Read Psalm 2:1-12 and 110:1-7.

Despite appearances, Jesus' coming was hardly unscheduled—His was an arrival promised and planned since the beginning (see Genesis 3:15). Throughout the Old Testament, God continuously reminded His people that His Anointed One would come and save them from the curse of sin and death. His Son would reign and rule over all the nations of the earth forever. In particular, the Psalms contain many passages that prophesy about the coming Messiah—passages that the New Testament reveals are fulfilled in Jesus.

In Psalm 2, we read, "The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the LORD and against his anointed" (v. 2). As Acts 4:25-28 declares, God's anointed is Jesus, and the Truth of Psalm 2 is on full display today as people choose to set themselves up as their own kings, rejecting the idea that they are beholden to their Creator, King Jesus. They hate His teachings, and they strive to silence His followers because they believe that God's moral absolutes are a chain around their necks. They want to be free to pursue the pleasure that their flesh demands, so they suppress the Truth and ignore Jesus' offer of eternal, abundant life to all who will take refuge in Him (see Psalm 2:12).

Likewise, the New Testament is very clear that Jesus is the resurrected, ascended, glorified, soon-coming judge depicted in Psalm 110 (see Hebrews 7:11-28, Acts 2:29-36, Mark 12:35-37, et al.). He is reigning and ruling at the right hand of God the Father today. Jesus even applied this psalm to Himself in Matthew 22:41-46, indicating that, after He had paid for the wages of our sins on the cross, He would be enthroned in heaven. And this is where Jesus is right now. He is King over all, and every human being on the face of the earth will either know Jesus as Lord, Savior, and friend or become His footstool.

At Christmas we celebrate more than the babe in the manger. We worship the glorious, eternal King who reigns. Out of His infinite love, God sent His Son to earth two thousand years ago, and still He invites His enemies to believe in Jesus Christ and be saved. Let us pray that many who now shake their fists at heaven would have ears to hear the Gospel message, receive the Lord Jesus as King, and be transformed by the gift of His divine presence forever this Christmas.

Prayer: Lord, I praise You for Your wondrous love displayed in the gift of Your one and only Son. Thank You for the wonder of Christmas. Give me eyes to see ways I can share Your gift of salvation with those around me. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"Kiss his son, or he will be angry and your way will lead to your destruction, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him" (Psalm 2:12).

E-give (Anonymous 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, 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

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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/>