

# NEWSLETTER

18 December 2023 – 14 January 2024

**R**evive  
**R**estore  
**R**each Out

## NRCC News and Notices

### Advent 4: LOVE



#### ▪ **Christmas Day Service**

For our Christmas Day Service we will be joined by NEW Korean Community Church at 9am.

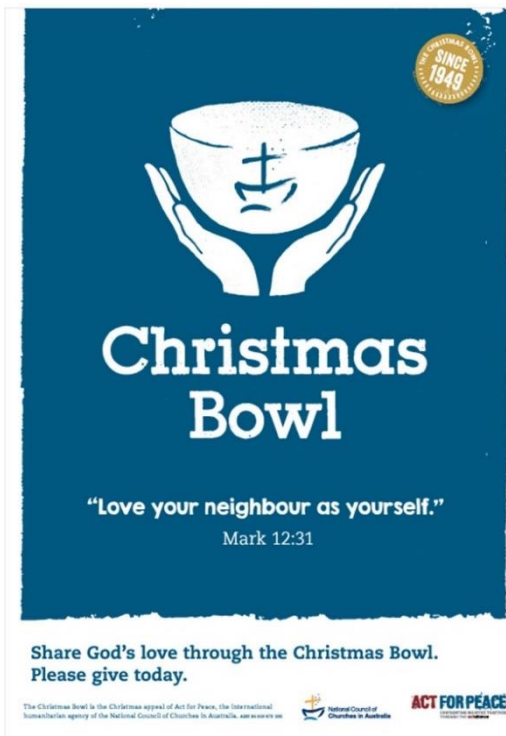
#### ▪ **Guest Preachers**

We will have guest preachers for the next few weeks before Rev Deborah Yun begins with us on 15 January

31 December: Rev Allan Blyth

7 January: Rev Russell Davies

14 January: Rev Allan Blyth



## 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 <sup>st</sup> 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/>

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## Reflection of the Week

### **Only for a Time**

As we celebrate Christ's first coming, we must remember that He is our conquering King who will soon return to place all things under His feet

Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-18.

Jesus was born a man so that we who love Him could become citizens of heaven. Though He was God, He laid aside the manifestation of His glory to come and identify with us—humbling Himself so that He could set us free from sin and make us new by the power of His Spirit.

This is what we celebrate at Christmas. Jesus was born as one of us to reconcile us to God and raise us to new life in Him (see 2 Corinthians 5:17-18). The King of kings was welcomed to earth by poor and humble shepherds so that we who believe in Him might be received by our infinite and matchless Father in heaven.

But as we celebrate the joyous occasion of Christ's birth, we shouldn't view Him today as the baby in a manger. Even now, Christ is reigning at the right hand of God. His time on earth as a suffering servant is complete—and He will soon return as a conquering King.

One day, Christ will come to finish His work and make all of creation fully and completely new—free from sin, death, and shame forever. From His humble birth to His obedient death, He won this for us. So, as we celebrate what He has done, let us fix our eyes on the hope of what He will soon do.

*Prayer: Thank You, Jesus, for making me new and giving me the promise of eternal life with You. I rejoice in the hope of Your return. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

**"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" (2 Corinthians 5:16).**

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### **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

## 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](mailto: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/>