



# NEWSLETTER

1-7 April 2024

Revive  
Restore  
Reach Out

Worship Services Sundays 9am

Easter 2



## Dates for your Diary

### *NRCC 2024 Calendar*

Apr	
4	Mission Consultation Groups meeting
6	Bupa Worship Service 10am
13	Walk & Breakfast at Cumberland State Forest

## **Community News and Notices**

### **UCA Uniting in Prayer 2024 - invitation from Assembly**

Following the popularity of the very first Uniting in Prayer event last year, we will be running the event again this year from 19 May - 22nd of June. We are currently working on a range of worship resources as well as the new 2024 Prayer Chain (a whole of church prayer chain that will include congregations, presbyteries, synod, agencies and schools).

For more information, or to sign up to receive resources click on this link. <https://www.act2uca.com/unitinginprayer2024>

### **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**

On the third day, Jesus walked out of His borrowed garden tomb, alive and well. The religious tried to stop the resurrection with seals and stones and soldiers. It didn't matter; Jesus rose from the dead all the same.

Even so, opposition to the resurrection power of Jesus continued. Religious authorities, political leaders, and others tried to silence Jesus' followers and put a stop to the spread of the Gospel. One such enemy of Christ was a young Pharisee named Saul of Tarsus. He rose to prominence and found a measure of fame because of his hate for Christian believers who kept on proclaiming the resurrection. He intimidated the believers, imprisoned many, and even oversaw the murder of a deacon in the church at Jerusalem named Stephen.

Saul was determined to stamp out Christianity, not just in Jerusalem but across the whole region. With permission from the high priest, he pursued believers all the way to the city of Damascus in Syria—a long way away.

However, all was not as it seemed. Inside Saul of Tarsus a war was raging. In fact, his outward resistance to the resurrection can only be explained by his inward struggle. Jesus knew this, and so while Saul was traveling to Damascus, the Lord blinded the young Pharisee and spoke to him: "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads" (Acts 26:14). Saul was hurting himself with his hatred of the resurrection, so Jesus, in His mercy, stopped Saul in his tracks so that he could change course for good.

You see, prior to that divinely appointed day, Saul had wanted his religion to seal his heart from the resurrected Jesus. He had tried to fortify his heart with his false religion and religious activities. He attempted to muffle the voice of the resurrected Jesus with his good deeds. But finally, when faced with the Truth—Truth he could no longer deny—he had to submit; he had to surrender.

When Saul met the risen Christ, he couldn't resist asking, "Who are You, Lord?" You can ask that same question, and the Lord will answer you. You will never find real peace of mind—you will never experience true freedom from sin and guilt and shame and addiction or be assured of eternity in heaven—until you submit to the risen Lord. Don't put it off. Right now could be your Damascus Road moment!

*Prayer: Jesus, I want You to be King of my life. I don't want to fight against Your perfect will for me. Empower me by Your Spirit to live as a citizen of Your heavenly Kingdom today for Your glory and the blessing of those in my midst. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

**"We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads'" (Acts 26:14).**

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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: 0424 791 916

### **Ministry Leaders**

**Supply Minister:** Rev. Deborah Yun / 0424 922 314 / [revdeborahyun@gmail.com](mailto:revdeborahyun@gmail.com)

### **Church Council**

Chairperson: Cathy Nelson      Secretary: Steve Turner      Treasurer: Anne Crabb  
Andrew Head, Hilton Petters, Jacky Hammond, Sue Vasilevska

### **Team Leaders**

Worship: Cathy Nelson      Discipleship: Alex Chow      Pastoral Care: Robyn Pike  
Fellowship: Sue Vasilevska      Mission: Steve Turner      Sustainability: Bill Vasilevski