



NEWSLETTER

11 - 17 November 2024



Worship Services Sundays 9am

New Rubbish and FOGO Procedures for NRCC

Parramatta Council have introduced new procedures for the handling of household rubbish. How food waste is handled has significantly changed.

Information on the new procedures will be displayed in the kitchen and a second copy will be in the A-frame near the door to the church.

In the Church/Hall kitchen (and also the 134 kitchen) there are now 3 bins:

- a small green FOGO bin for Food Organic material -- this then goes in the Green Council bins
- a bin with no liner which is for recycling items -- this then goes in the Yellow Council Bins
- a bin with liner for other rubbish (but not food) -- this then goes into the Red Council bins.

The Green Council bins are also used for Garden Organics as in the past.

Please ensure that the correct bin is used. If you unsure please check the information displayed.

Dates for your Diary

Craft Group @ 10 am-noon Fridays

Bring along your latest craft project and join us for morning tea and a chat. 10am each Friday in the church.

Nov	
15	Craft Group
20	Zoom Prayer Meeting
Dec	
1	Advent
3	Church Council Meeting
24	Christmas Eve Carols
25	Christmas Day

Community News and Notices

Christmas Gift Ideas

There are a number of groups offering different gift ideas this Christmas. Please consider these options this year when buying gifts.



UnitingWorld's **Everything in Common Gift Catalogue** is out now for Christmas. It's filled with gifts that fight poverty through health, education, leadership and income opportunities. Shop online at www.everythingincommon.com.au or simply click on the image above.



More than just your average charity card, Tearfund's Useful Gifts contribute to long-term sustainable development projects. When you buy a goat or other useful gift, your gift is contributing to sustainable, long-term development projects run by Tearfund and our local partners. Shop online at www.usefulgifts.org or simply click on the image above.



Through the Christmas Bowl, you are empowering families to find safety, dignity and independence after being displaced by conflicts and disasters. Go

to <https://christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au/46872> or click on the above image to donate on behalf of NRCC.



As Christmas approaches, we are reminded of the importance of extending kindness to those who may feel alone or isolated during this season. Parramatta Mission is committed to ensuring that individuals and families facing difficult times — whether due to homelessness, crisis or mental illness — experience the joy and warmth of Christmas.

For as little as \$25, you can provide a meal and support to someone in need, helping to bring a smile to their face and a little light to their holiday season. Go to <https://donate.parramattamission.org.au/event/plate-for-a-mate/home>, or click on the image above to contribute.

Uniting Church Assembly and Synod New Links

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

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

Reflection of the Week

Have you ever considered that your true home is heaven, in the presence of our Holy Father? It is not God who is distant. Instead, it is you and I. And that is why Christ came: to bring us home.

Read Luke 15:11-24. In the parable of the prodigal son, Jesus makes this plain. It is the younger son who leaves for a distant country, while the father remains at home. The distance between them is caused by the son's selfishness; the father has not moved. The son made the mistake of wanting the father's blessings more than a relationship with his father. When he asked for his share of the inheritance, he was essentially telling his father, "I don't want you. I only want what you can give me." Can you think of a more hurtful thing to say? But this is what many of us say to our heavenly Father. We want His blessings, but we don't want to take the time to really get to know His heart.

And so, like that prodigal son, we find ourselves in a far country. God seems so distant, and the blessings without the Father do not bring the lasting happiness we had hoped for. When the prodigal in Jesus' parable was at his lowest point, the Bible says, "[H]e came to his senses" (15:17). In other words, he had a moment of clarity. He remembered his true home—and how

good his father was to him.

This is why we can never give up hope, no matter how lost someone may be. We never know when God will cause someone to long for their true home in a way that leads to repentance and a relationship with Jesus Christ. The prodigal son wasn't wrong about his father's kindness. Though he planned to return home as a mere servant, the father wouldn't hear of it. He loved his son too much for that and restored all his rights and privileges as a son in good standing.

This is the miracle of the Gospel: Though we deserve death, God welcomes us home. And though we come as servants, He makes us sons and daughters. To all those wandering in the far country, God reaches out and says, "It's time to come home."

Prayer: Father, thank You for making me Your child. Help me to share about the wonders of Your love and lead more prodigals to come home to You as You call. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him" (Luke 15:20).

Prayer Points for This Week

For Our Church:

- Pray that Christ's message will deeply take root in our hearts and minds, encouraging us to support and guide one another with wisdom.
- Pray for God's blessings on all who serve during the service—preachers, worship leaders, musicians, tech teams, and the many unseen helpers. Pray that their work will glorify God and help the congregation draw closer to Him.
- Pray for our church leaders as they navigate this season. Ask for wisdom in their decisions, unity in their vision, and a sincere commitment to the well-being of our church during this time of transition.
- Pray for healing and restoration for those in need.

For the Wider Church:

- Pray for persecuted Christians around the world, asking for strength, protection, and courage in their faith. Pray that they experience God's comfort and provision, and that their faithful witness draws others to Christ.
- Pray for churches to remain grounded in sound teaching, helping believers grow deeper in their faith and live out the gospel.
- Ask God for revival, that churches would become centres of spiritual renewal, bringing transformation to their communities.

- Pray for the Parramatta Nepean Presbytery and churches currently without ministers. Ask for wisdom and guidance in this season, provision for their needs, and strong, effective leadership.

For Australia:

- Pray for integrity, wisdom, and unity among leaders at the federal, state, and local levels as they make decisions that shape our nation.
- Pray for relief and support for those struggling with the rising cost of living. Ask for policies that promote affordability and bring economic stability.
- Pray for churches and Christian organizations to effectively share God's love and bring hope to communities in need.
- Pray for schools to be places where students and staff feel safe and supported. Pray especially for Christian religious education teachers and students as they grow in faith and share the good news of Jesus Christ.

For the World:

- Pray for peace in the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas. The humanitarian situation in Gaza remains dire, with many displaced and in urgent need of basic supplies.
- Pray for world leaders, that they may govern with wisdom, justice, and compassion. Grant them the insight to find solutions that foster harmony and cooperation among nations.
- Pray for missionaries serving in difficult and unreached areas, asking for protection, encouragement, and boldness as they share the love of Christ.
- Pray for the young generation worldwide, as they face the impact of social media on mental health and struggle with addiction. Pray for wisdom, balance, and supportive influences to help them find true connection and self-worth.

E - give (Anonymous Direct Electronic Giving)

Account Name: North Rocks CC - Giving
(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 922 312 / revdeborahyun@gmail.com

Church Council

Chairperson: Cathy Nelson Secretary: Samson Leung Treasurer: Anne Crabb
 Alex Chow, Nicole Critchley, Jenny Keyte