



NEWSLETTER

18 - 24 November 2024



Worship Services Sundays 9am

Christmas Eve

On Christmas Eve we will be having a sausage sizzle at 5.30pm before our Carols service at 6.30pm. If you are able to help organise the sausage sizzle, purchase supplies or help on the night please talk to Cathy.

Community Garden Grant

The City of Parramatta Council has approved a small grant for the creation of the community garden at NRCC. NRCC wishes to thank the City of Parramatta Council for their support of this project.

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	
22	Craft Group
27	Zoom Prayer Meeting
Dec	
1	Advent
3	Church Council Meeting
24	Christmas Eve Carols & Sausage Sizzle
25	Christmas Day

Community News and Notices

Intergenerational Program Opportunity for Over 65s

In collaboration between The George Institute for Global Health and The University of New South Wales, The INTEGRITY Team is running a 20-week Intergenerational Program to evaluate whether bringing pre-school aged children and adults (aged 65+) together, to engage in meaningful and fun activities, can improve health and wellbeing outcomes for all! If you are interested, please pick up a flyer at church.

Changing Lives from the Inside Out

Andrew Fisher of Jesus Racing (and Life Choices Foundation) and Kairos Prison Ministry are holding a free event on **Saturday 30th November at 2pm** at Stanhope Anglican Church where you can hear from two life changing ministries along with testimonies of everyday people whose lives have been changed. For more information, or to RSVP, go to <https://kairos.org.au/course/change-lives-event/>.

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 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

Godly Friendship

In Ecclesiastes 4, Solomon saw loneliness and isolation and became discouraged. That is, until he discovered the power of godly companionship.

Solomon wrote:

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

The Bible tells us that we are to encourage one another, motivate one another, pray for one another, uphold one another, support one another, protect one another, and carry one another's burdens. As we read in Scripture: "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17).

As Christians, we are called to love each other. In Proverbs 17:17, we read that "[a] friend loves at all times." In the Gospel of John, Jesus says, "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:12-13).

Prayer: Father, I pray that You would put godly friends in my life. Guide me in my relationships and help me to be a good, godly friend to those around me. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother" (Proverbs 18:24).

Prayer Points for This Week

For Our Church:

- Pray that we may learn the secret of being content in all circumstances, relying on the strength that comes from Christ alone.

- Pray for church leaders as they seek to serve the congregation faithfully. May they discern God's will and walk His path with faith, wisdom, and trust.
- Pray for the preachers, service leaders, music team, sound team, and all who contribute to our worship services, that they may be inspired and filled with the Holy Spirit in their roles.
- Pray for healing and restoration for those in need.

For the Wider Church:

- Pray for the Uniting Church Assembly. Ask for wisdom and discernment for its members as they make decisions that shape the life and mission of the church. May the Spirit guide them in all their deliberations.
- Pray for the Parramatta Nepean Presbytery as it provides oversight and support to congregations and ministers. Ask for wisdom and compassion for its staff as they care for the spiritual well-being of their communities.
- Pray for churches and believers around the world, especially in places where following Christ is difficult. Ask for strength, courage, and resilience for those facing trials and hardships.
- Pray for Christian Religious Education teachers and students in our schools. Seek God's guidance and support as they share His Word in challenging environments.

For Australia:

- Pray for those facing financial hardships, that they may find the support and provision they need. Pray for leaders to address housing affordability and economic challenges with wisdom and compassion.
- Pray for the ethical use of technology, that privacy rights are upheld, and businesses and authorities find a fair balance between security and individual freedoms.
- Pray for international relationships, especially in the Asia-Pacific region. Ask for peace and cooperation among nations.
- Pray for a renewed sense of faith across the nation, that people may be drawn closer to God, inspiring a movement of prayer and commitment to His Word.

For the World:

- Pray for peace and aid in Gaza, that those in need may receive help, justice be served, and healing begin within the community.
- Pray for justice and fairness for the 45 pro-democracy activists recently sentenced in Hong Kong, that their trials uphold transparency, human rights, and true justice.
- Pray for nations working to address rising global tensions, that they find peaceful solutions and protect people without escalating conflict.
- Pray for equitable development in poorer countries, that partnerships lead to meaningful progress and lasting benefits for their people.

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