



NEWSLETTER

25 Nov – 1 Dec 2024



Worship Services Sundays 9am

Deborah on leave.

Deborah will be taking leave next week, December 2 - 8. For pastoral care concerns please contact Robyn or another member of the pastoral care team. For other issues, please contact Cathy or Dennis, or email the church office.

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.

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.

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

Has God ever placed you in a job, location, or situation you never would have chosen for yourself? In 1 Kings 17:7-16, we see how God operates on many fronts to both accomplish His purposes and bless us.

One day, while Elijah was enjoying the restful protection of the Lord at the bottom of the Kerith Ravine, the brook dried up, and his time of being fed by ravens ended. The Lord told him to go to

Zarephath where a widow would feed him.

This new direction from the Lord was strange on many levels. First, Zarephath was hard hit by famine. Second, it was in the heart of Baal-worship territory and only seven miles from Jezebel's home. Zarephath means "smelt," and the city had a reputation for being a smelly, polluted place where iron was smelted. Elijah must have wondered why he was being asked to leave his comfortable hideout and cross seventy miles of desert to walk into unpleasant and dangerous territory.

But Elijah knew that if God had given him the order, He would provide for his needs. "So he went to Zarephath" (v. 10).

Prayer: Father, help me to trust You like Elijah did and to obey Your commands, even if they don't make sense to me and take me out of my comfort zone. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"I will hasten and not delay to obey your commands" (Psalm 119:60).

Prayer Points for This Week

For Our Church:

- Pray that the season of Advent inspires renewed hope and anticipation for Christ's return. May it deepen our faith, strengthen our hearts, and guide us to live in joyful expectation of His coming.
- Pray for God's guidance, unity, and collaboration among council members, that they will serve the church with harmony and a shared purpose during this transition.
- Pray for the preachers, service leaders, music team, sound team, and all other serving hands involved in the service, that they will be blessed with strength, wisdom, and a heart for service.
- Pray for healing and restoration for those in need.

For the Wider Church:

- Pray for missionaries in unreached or hostile areas, for God's protection, provision, and open hearts to the Gospel. Pray for support from local churches.
- Pray for persecuted Christians in countries like Iran, Somalia, India, Egypt, and Myanmar. Ask God to grant them courage and protection as they stand firm in their faith.
- Pray for churches without ministers, asking for God's guidance, provision, and unity. Pray for the right leaders to be called and for strength as they continue their mission.
- Pray for the church to stay focused on its mission to spread the Gospel and serve as a light of hope and love in the world.

For Australia:

- Pray for those struggling with high living costs, unemployment, and lack of affordable housing. Ask God to meet their needs and open doors for just and compassionate solutions.
- Pray for efforts focused on prevention, treatment, and support for those affected by substance abuse.
- Pray for wisdom, integrity, and unity among political leaders at all levels, that their decisions may benefit the nation.

- Pray for churches and Christian organizations to effectively share the gospel and bring hope and restoration to those they serve.

For the World:

- Pray for countries in conflict, like Yemen and parts of sub-Saharan Africa, where food distribution is hindered.
 - Pray for vulnerable children in refugee camps, especially those separated from their families or at risk of exploitation.
 - Pray for those suffering from severe droughts, particularly in Ethiopia, Somalia, and India. Pray that water restoration efforts will succeed.
 - Pray for missionaries in unreached or hostile areas, asking for God's protection, provision, and open hearts to the gospel. Pray that local churches will support their mission work.
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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