



NEWSLETTER

2 – 8 December 2024

Revive
Restore
Reach Out

Worship Services Sundays 9am

Guest Preacher

This Sunday Rev Allan Blyth will be preaching.

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.

Deborah has decided to conclude her ministry at NRCC at the end of this year. She believes it is time for both the church and herself to move forward into the future God has planned. We are extremely grateful for the guidance and care that Deborah has brought during her time with us.

Geoff met with church council this week to help us work out how we can move forward. Presbytery has identified a possible minister to work with us from February 2025. We will share more information with the congregation when it becomes available.

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.

Update from Church Council

- Geoff met with us to help us work out how we can move forward after Deborah completes her ministry with us at the end of the year.
- Presbytery has identified a possible minister to work with us from February 2025. We will share more information with the congregation when it becomes available.
- We have received an email from NRPS Fete. The fete will be held on 30 August. We decided to accept their request to volunteer for serving the spit roast, as we did last year.
- Games Night will continue next year. The first evening will be held on 24 January 7.30pm.

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.

Dec	
6	Craft Group
8	Advent 2—Peace
11	Zoom Prayer Meeting
24	Christmas Eve Carols & Sausage Sizzle
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 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 News Links

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

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

Reflection of the Week

An Intense Prayer

When faced with trials, unbelievers, like the widow in 1 Kings 17, often shake their fists at God. Sometimes, they make one of God's people, even someone close to them, the target of their anger. The widow says to Elijah, "What do you have against me, man of God? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?" (v. 18).

Elijah responds the way every Christian should: He does not return the anger but goes to God in prayer, relying on God's power to change the circumstances. God then uses Elijah to achieve the first resurrection in the Bible. God does this historical miracle in the home of a Baal-worshiping

widow in the lowliest of places. It is a lesson that when we pray and depend on God's power, He will pour His resurrection power on the people and plans in our lives.

Elijah's intensity in prayer for the boy was effective as he literally puts his entire being into intercession. God honours this type of wholehearted devotion in prayer.

Elijah also does not hesitate to ask God, "LORD my God, have you brought tragedy even on this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?" (v. 20). Asking God "why" is not wrong. Gideon did it when faced with the Midianites. Job asked, "Why?" when tragedy struck his life. Even Jesus cried out to His Father from the cross: "Why?" Yet they all knew that God is all-powerful and can restore health, life, and victory.

With the resurrection of her son, the widow finally comes to know God. She responds, "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD from your mouth is the truth" (v. 24).

Does Elijah's intensity in prayer inspire you?

Prayer: God, help me to pray with the kind of intensity with which Elijah prayed, believing that You will answer. Help me to devote more time, passion, and purpose to my prayer life. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing" (Matthew 26:44).

Prayer Points for This Week

For Our Church:

- Pray for a deeper trust in God's promise of eternal peace through Jesus Christ as we wait with hope this second Sunday of Advent.
- Pray for hearts to discover true contentment in every situation, drawing strength from Christ.
- Pray for preachers, worship leaders, musicians, sound teams, and all who serve during this Advent season, that they may be guided and strengthened by God.
- Pray for healing and restoration for those in need.

For the Wider Church:

- Pray for churches without ministers, seeking God's guidance, provision, and unity. Ask for the right leaders to be raised up and for strength as these churches continue their mission.
- Pray for the Christmas Bowl ministry to bring hope and peace to those in need. Ask for generosity to overflow during this season and for God's wisdom to guide those serving through this work.

- Pray for schools to be safe and supportive spaces for students and staff. Lift up Christian religious education teachers and students, asking for growth in faith and boldness in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.
- Pray for the International Mission Board, Gospel for Asia, The AIDS Orphans Project, and their missionaries. May they be effective in spreading the gospel and sharing Christ's love across the world.

For Australia:

- Pray for individuals and families facing mental health challenges, especially those worsened by isolation, financial difficulties, and other pressures.
- Pray for Indigenous communities in Australia, asking for wisdom and unity in reconciliation efforts. Pray for positive role models for children, improvements in education, and lasting solutions to issues like drug use and abuse.
- Pray for a spiritual awakening across Australia, asking God to draw hearts closer to Him and inspire a renewed commitment to prayer and His Word.
- Pray for the government to develop and implement policies that effectively reduce the harm caused by gambling and help communities affected by its impact.

For the World:

- Pray for world leaders to lead with wisdom, justice, and compassion, seeking solutions that foster peace and cooperation among nations.
- Pray for relief and aid to reach those suffering in Yemen and South Sudan, where conflict has led to extreme shortages of food, water, and medical care.
- Pray for the safety and courage of journalists and activists in nations like Russia, China, and Mexico, as they face threats and persecution for standing up for truth and justice.
- Pray for a global revival of faith, asking that hearts around the world turn to God with renewed hope and trust in His promises.

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