



# NEWSLETTER

7 - 13 April 2025

**Revive**  
**Restore**  
**Reach Out**

## Sunday Worship 9am

### Congregational Meeting

A congregational meeting will be held on 13 April after the service.

### Easter Devotional

If you are looking for an Easter Devotional please check the links below.

<https://pages.christianitytoday.com/easter-devotional-lead-gen-2025-confirmation>

Alternatively, click [here](#) to download a resource from Presbytery on Lenten Spiritual Disciplines. It presents a range of spiritual reflections from the Christian tradition, relying particularly on the wisdom and teaching of Henri Nouwen.

### Latest Info on North Rocks Rd Closures

The weekend closures have been delayed until probably June/July.

So two way traffic will continue with some night time delays on weekdays.

## Dates for your Diary

April	
13	Palm Sunday Congregational Meeting
18	Good Friday
20	Easter Sunday
May	
2	Games Night
Aug	
30	Serving at NRPS Fete

## **Community News and Notices**



If you would like to find out about how you can contribute to Lent Event this year please go to <https://donate.unitingworld.org.au/event/lent-event>

### **Uniting Church Assembly and Synod News Links**

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

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

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## **Reflection of the Week**

The gifts of the Holy Spirit laid out in 1 Corinthians 12 are not simply human talents. They may not even be what we like or what best suits our personalities. These gifts, freely given to us by God, have a divine origin and are to be used for the accomplishment of a divine goal. In 1 Corinthians 12:7, we read, "Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good." God empowers His children with these spiritual gifts for a purpose: that the church may be built up.

God's purpose in giving us spiritual gifts is to edify the body of Christ. These gifts are not given to enhance our self-esteem or to be used for our own advantage but rather that we might serve others. We are given these gifts so that we might encourage, bless, serve, love, motivate, and build one another up (see Galatians 5:13, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, and 1 Peter 1:22). God desires every Christian to be an active participant in His church by utilizing these gifts.

In 1 Corinthians 13, the apostle Paul warns us that any exercise of the spiritual gifts without love is meaningless. Without bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit, our attempt to exercise the spiritual gifts will not build up the body of Christ. But when we exercise our gifts in love, the entire body is blessed.

The only way for the church to function according to the will of God is for every believer to exercise his or her God-given gifts—in humility, love, and obedience to God. When someone in the body is hurting, another comforts him. When someone is blessed, another rejoices.

When the body is functioning according to the will of God, bearing the fruit of the Spirit and exercising the gifts of the Spirit, the church is able to accomplish its God-given mission of displaying Christ to a watching world. Therefore, there is a greater purpose to the edification of the body of Christ—the accomplishment of the Great Commission. As the Holy Spirit empowers the body of Christ with a heart of radical love and compassion, the lost are eternally welcomed into the

family of God. Only through the Holy Spirit working in us can we love God rightly, love His church rightly, and love the world rightly—and so accomplish Christ's mission.

*Prayer: Lord, thank You for giving me special gifts to edify the body of Christ and to bring the light of Your love to those lost in darkness. May Your Spirit move me to love in such a way that my gifts bring You glory and lead souls to salvation in You. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

**"Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good" (1 Corinthians 12:7).**

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## **Prayer Points for This Month**

### **For Our Church:**

- Pray for our commitment to following God's word, looking to Him for encouragement in our journey.
- Pray for wisdom and guidance leading up to the congregational meeting.
- Pray for Rod as he guides us through this period of transition.
- Pray for our church council, for wisdom and unity as they work together to lead the congregation.
- Pray for healing and restoration for those in need.

### **For the Wider Church:**

- Pray for wisdom and discernment for church leaders in our congregations, Presbyteries, Synods and Assembly.
- Pray for churches without ministers in the UCA, asking for guidance, provision, and effective leadership during this time.
- Pray for strength and wisdom for mission organizations and missionaries as they share the Gospel, especially those reaching the unreached who have not yet heard about Jesus.

### **For Australia:**

- Pray for those struggling in our communities, especially those facing financial hardships and sorrow. May God's love surround them and bring them comfort and renewed hope.
- Pray for our political leaders as we near the federal elections. May they develop policies that are fair for all, especially those who are vulnerable.
- Pray for unity across our lands. Pray that we all might be reconciled with one another through God.

### **For the World:**

- Pray for world leaders, that they will work together to govern with wisdom, justice, and compassion.
  - Pray for peace in areas of conflict and unrest.
  - Pray for those affected by the earthquake in Myanmar.
  - Pray that food aid can be received by those in need following unrest.
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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 Dr Rod Benson / 0412421678 / [rod@northrocks.org.au](mailto:rod@northrocks.org.au)

### **Church Council**

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