



# NEWSLETTER

14 - 20 April 2025

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

## Sunday Worship 9am

### Term 2 Roster

The roster is currently being prepared up to the end of July. If you would like to be included on the roster or change your involvement in any way please contact Cathy.

If you will be away for an extended period please let us know so that we can work around those dates.

### Fellowship Walk

Come join us for a walk, breakfast or both at Cumberland State Forest Saturday 3rd May. Meet outside the Cafe Salinga at 9am for a walk and breakfast at 9.45pm.

Please feel free to invite a friend.

Let Sue know if you are interested so she can book a table.

### Previous Sermons

If you would missed any of our previous sermons you can listen to them on our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/@nrcc6214> or read them on Rod's blog at <https://rodbenson.com/>

## Dates for your Diary

April	
18	Good Friday
20	Easter Sunday
May	
2	Games Night
3	Fellowship Walk
10	Community Garden Working Bee
June	
22	Lunch after church at Castle Hill RSL

## **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**

### **Read Philippians 2:5-11.**

Every one of the more than eight billion people alive in the world today was born with a spiritual debt that we could never repay. At first, we inherited it, and then we added to it. But God in His mercy has provided a way of escape from this prison of spiritual debt. On the cross, God the Son paid it all so that every repentant sinner who comes to Christ in faith can be set free from this crushing debt.

But who crucified Jesus? Some say it was Judas, who, out of greed, delivered Jesus to the priests. Others would say it was the priests, who handed Jesus over to Pontius Pilate. Still others would say it was Pilate, who signed off on Jesus' execution. But when Jesus was hanging on that cross in agony, He prayed, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34).

The Truth is Jesus chose the cross for Himself. He went to the cross deliberately and willingly. He came from heaven and was born as a baby to die upon it. At the right time, He set His face toward Jerusalem (see Luke 9:51). He would not let His disciples or anyone else sway Him; He knew He had come to die in this way. Jesus willingly, voluntarily, resolutely went to the cross. And He did it out of love, a love so great that He stood in our place, bearing the crushing punishment for our sin and satisfying forever the justice of God.

*Prayer: Jesus, Your love overwhelms me. I cannot fully fathom it; it humbles and sustains me. You are my Rock and my Redeemer. I long to live for You, the lover of my soul. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

**"And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!" (Philippians 2:8).**

# 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