



NEWSLETTER

21 - 27 April 2025



Sunday Worship 9am

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.

Community Garden

There will be a working bee, morning tea, & blessing of the Community Garden on Saturday 10th May.

The working bee will start at 8.30am, with morning tea at 10.30am. Please come along at any time during the morning -we'd love to see you there.

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

May	
2	Games Night
3	Fellowship Walk
10	Community Garden Working Bee
June	
21	Cancer Council Morning Tea
22	Lunch after church at Castle Hill RSL

Aug	
30	Serving at NRPS Fete
Sept	
6	Trivia Night
Dec	
6	Fair Trade Market

Community News and Notices



Make a Difference at the Fair-Trade Market! Be part of empowering communities affected by poverty and unfair trade practices by visiting the Fair-Trade Market at West Epping Uniting Church on Saturday, 3 May from 10am to 3pm. Join the fight against poverty while shopping for unique, ethically-made jewelry, clothing, and home décor—just in time for Mother's Day! Enjoy a delicious Devonshire tea or sausage sandwich, and relax with live performances from our talented community. There's fun for the whole family, with free face painting and kids' activities throughout the day. Shop with purpose. Enjoy the day. Help change lives.

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

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-24.

Before it became an icon of Christian hope, the cross was simply an instrument of torture. It was a means of execution used by the Romans and reserved for the meanest of criminals. Thus, it wasn't popular. People didn't wear jewellery depicting the cross; no one placed an ornamental cross in their home. Of course, when Jesus took our sins upon that cross, everything changed. The cross became a symbol of our faith in Him, a reminder that the Son of God paid the ultimate price for our eternal freedom and salvation.

The cross of Christ secured victory over evil. It brings hope to every hopeless situation, and it is the only way of salvation. The cross that Jesus died upon two thousand years ago opened the gate to eternal life. The cross of Christ is more than a symbol. It is everything.

Yet today, even in churches, the cross is disappearing. Why? Because we have trivialized sin, and wherever sin is trivialized, the cross is minimized. Sin and the cross go together. Because of the

greatness of our sin, the cross was necessary. And because of the greatness of the cross, our sin is paid in full. If we do not understand the enormity of our sin and its incredible offense to a holy God, we cannot comprehend the glorious grace and beauty of the cross. The cross is the only cure for the terminal disease of sin in our lives.

Make no mistake: The cross is still an instrument of death. But in Christ, it has put to death our guilt, our sin, our shame, and even death itself. Now, that is worth celebrating!

Prayer: Father, thank You for Your amazing grace. Thank You for granting me salvation through the sacrifice of Your Son. Your forgiveness and love astound me and give me life. You are good. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" (1 Corinthians 1:18).

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 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.

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

Church Council

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