



# NEWSLETTER

12 - 18 May 2025

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

## Sunday Worship 9am

### Community Garden

Happy to have a blessing for & marking of our new Church community garden last Saturday. Things are ready for harvesting & enjoying, the sun blessed us after about 2 weeks of rain. Thanks Darren, Jen, Jacky & the rest of the Garden Team. Thankful for our many, many blessings.



### Prayer Requests

If you have any prayer requests or would like to be added to our confidential prayer group, please contact Rod or Robyn.

### 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

June	
21	Cancer Council Morning Tea
22	Lunch after church at Castle Hill RSL
27	Games Night
July	
11-13	Synod 2025
Aug	
8-9	BaseCamp
30	Serving at NRPS Fete
Sept	
6	Trivia Night
Dec	
6	Fair Trade Market

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## Community News and Notices

### Stewardship of the Earth Conference

- **Date:** Saturday 14 June, 9:30am-5:00pm
- **Location:** Centre for Ministry, North Parramatta
- **Program:** [Click here](#) for the full program for the day
- **Cost:** [Registration](#) includes attendance, conference material, lunch, morning & afternoon teas, and opportunities to meet & network
  - Full (waged): \$30
  - Retired: \$15
  - Students: \$10
  - Unwaged & under-16: free



### 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

### Christ Is Counter-Cultural

#### Read Matthew 5:1-12.

Today's society would like us to believe Jesus' teachings were for another time. But Jesus' teachings are as startlingly relevant today as they were when He first spoke them—and they are still turning cultural norms upside down. We live in a world broken with the sin of self-worship, where society reveres self-realization. But Jesus' teachings are of a heavenly nature, unmarred by sin. He calls us to live holy lives of Christlike character, full of goodness and humility, to prepare us for the culture of His eternal Kingdom.

Secular culture says, "Happy are the rich—those who die with the most toys, for that makes life worthwhile," but Jesus says, "Blessed are you who hunger and thirst for righteousness because you will truly be satisfied." Society's pundits say, "Happy are you who get even, for this is a mean world," but the Lord of all says, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy." While the cultural elites say, "Happy are you when you eliminate godly standards so that you can live your truth," the Messiah says, "Blessed are you who are persecuted because of righteousness, for yours is the Kingdom of heaven."

Jesus' counter-cultural, Kingdom-oriented teachings show us how to develop true character—character that even this broken world commends, though it struggles to understand it. This kind of character cannot be established in any life without a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. For, a life lived beautifully, one that lasts eternally, is the life that follows the narrow road after Christ.

*Prayer: Jesus, Your ways are matchless—fully satisfying and offering joy and peace that transcend understanding. Your ways are perfect; may I seek them whole-heartedly by the power of Your Spirit working in me. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

**"But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness" (1 Timothy 6:11).**

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## **Prayer Points for This Month**

### **For Our Church**

- Pray that we stay rooted in God's Word, seeking His guidance in every step of our journey.
- Pray for Rod, that he may be strengthened and guided as he leads us.
- Pray for our Church Council, asking for unity and discernment as they faithfully lead the congregation.
- Pray for healing and restoration for those in need.

### **For the Wider Church**

- Pray for wisdom and discernment for church leaders at all levels—congregational, Presbytery, Synod, and Assembly.
- Pray for missionaries and mission organizations, especially those reaching the unreached, that they may be bold, wise, and fruitful in sharing the Gospel. We pray especially for the missionaries that we support: Mike & Jacky, Richard & Lindsey, Bill & Sandra.

### **For Australia**

- Pray for those in our communities who are struggling. May they feel God's love and find renewed hope.
- Pray for our political leaders that they might lead with integrity and prioritize justice, especially for the vulnerable.
- Pray for national unity and reconciliation, that our communities might be drawn together in understanding and peace through God's love.

### **For the World**

- Pray for world leaders, that they would govern with wisdom, justice, and compassion.
  - Pray for peace in areas facing conflict and 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