

# NEWSLETTER

2 - 8 June 2025

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

## Sunday Worship 9am

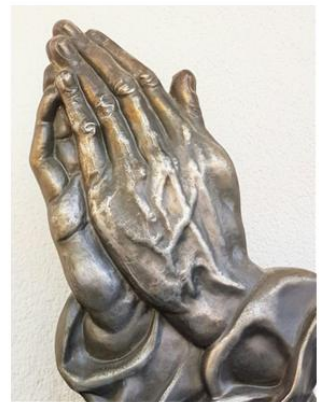
### Prayer for Our Church

**Dear God,**

Thank You for all You're doing in the life of our church, even when we don't see or understand it. Shine through us and guide our steps. Help us make a difference in the world for Your glory.

Help us follow Your voice, not the crowd, and stay close to You. Your love lasts forever.

**In Jesus' Name, Amen**



You are invited to pray this prayer individually, in small groups, Bible study groups or at other gatherings during the week.

### Wednesday Morning Prayers

Rod will be leading early morning prayers on Wednesdays at the church from 7am. The session will last about 30 minutes. All are welcome.

### Community Garden

There will be an open morning on Saturday 14th June 8.30-10.30am for people to come, chat, check out the garden. Morning tea will be available.

### 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	
14	Community Garden Open Morning
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

## Community News and Notices



- **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

### Read Mark 2:1-12.

In this passage, we see an example of four faith-filled friends who did something quite uncomfortable in order to bring their disabled companion to Christ. They arrived at a house in Capernaum where Jesus was teaching, and they could not navigate their way through the crowds—not with the stretcher they were carrying. No one was willing to move because no one wanted to miss a thing Jesus was saying.

But these four friends made the decision to move out in faith. They were going to move out of their comfort zone in order to bring their friend to the feet of Jesus, and nothing was going to stop them. They could have easily said to one another, "Well, we gave it our best shot." Or worse, they could have feigned piety, as many people today do: "It must not be the will of God. It's just not in His timing."

They didn't do that, of course. That's because they had two qualities that determined their course. First, they had undaunted faith in Jesus. They knew only Jesus could give their friend what no one else could give him. They knew only Jesus could heal the body and the soul. Second, they had an irrepressible commitment to their friend's well-being. They wanted the best for him, and they weren't about to give up because of some obstacle standing in their way, no matter how difficult the way forward seemed.

And so, these four friends climbed up onto the roof of the house, dug a hole through the roof, and lowered their friend all the way down in front of Jesus. "When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralysed man, 'Son, your sins are forgiven'" (Mark 2:5). And a few moments later, Jesus also healed the man's broken body—restoring both body and soul.

The Bible doesn't tell us about the paralysed man's faith. What we do know is that Jesus saw his four friends' faith—and that made all the difference.

When you try to bring someone to the feet of Jesus, that person may not know much about the Bible, the Christian faith, or why only Jesus can forgive their sins. But rest assured, God sees *your* faith. God sees *your* commitment. God sees *your* desire to see that person saved. God will honour *your desire* for their forgiveness and will take steps to honour your faith.

*Prayer: Lord, thank You for the example of the sincere and bold faith of these friends. May I have that same fervour to see those around me come to know You, the lover of our souls. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

***"Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on" (Mark 2:4).***

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## **Prayer Points for This Month**

### **For Our Church**

- Pray that we might, listen to God's voice and trust in his guidance.
- Pray for Rod, that he may find strength and wisdom through you. May he be a blessing to our church community.
- Pray for our Church Council, that they make decisions that honour you and serve our church faithfully.
- 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 - as they work for justice and peace.
- Pray for the Synod meeting in July for your guidance in their decisions.

- Pray for missionaries and mission organizations, especially those reaching the unreached. Grant them strength and wisdom as they work to bring joy and transformation to all they serve.
- Pray especially for the missionaries that we support, Mike & Jacky, Richard & Lindsey, Bill & Sandra.

### **For Australia**

- Pray for provision and comfort for those in our communities who are struggling.
- Pray that our political leaders govern with discernment, empathy, and a deep sense of justice.
- Pray for unity, peace and reconciliation, that our communities might be drawn together in understanding through God's love.

### **For the World**

- Pray for peace love and justice in our world. Help us to care for your creation and treat each other with kindness.
- Pray for world leaders, that they would govern with wisdom, justice, and compassion.

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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