



NEWSLETTER

4 - 10 August 2025

Revive
Restore
Reach Out

Sunday Worship 9am

Prayer for Our Church

Dear God,

Thank You for working through our church. Help us be a place of welcome, hope, and love for our community. Give us wisdom to reach those who don't know You, and let us shine Your light as we share Your good news.

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.

Trivia Night

Trivia night is just over a month away. Please invite your friends to come along for a fun evening. The event is on Facebook to share or you can pick up some flyers at the back of the church. If you have any items that can be used as prizes they can be left in the church office. We are also looking for donations of chocolate bars to use for prizes.

North Rocks Road - nightworks

Monday 14 July to Saturday 30 August 2025

A new nightworks program will begin on North Rocks Road from Monday 14 July continuing until Saturday 30 August 2025.

During this time, nightworks will start at 8pm, with North Rocks Road reinstated to normal use by 5am the following morning.

Two-way traffic will be maintained throughout, with traffic controllers in place to direct motorists. It is expected that night work will be scheduled for up to four (4) nights a week.

Previous Sermons

If you have 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

Aug	
8-9	BaseCamp
30	Serving at NRPS Fete
Sept	
6	Trivia Night
13	Community Garden Working Bee
Dec	
6	Fair Trade Market

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 News and Notices



More Than Awareness – A Week of Community, Connection & Care

On **Wednesday 6th August** Parramatta Mission will be hosting our biggest **Hub Day** yet, where service providers will come together to offer support, service, and smiles.

This year, we're launching a **Matched Giving Appeal** to triple the impact of your kindness. Thanks to **Parramatta Leagues Club & Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club**, every dollar you donate – up

to \$40,000 – will be **matched!** This means when you donate \$50, Parramatta Mission receives \$150.

The need is urgent - Public housing wait times in Parramatta are now **over 10 years**. City of Parramatta Street Count 2025 identified 48 people sleeping rough within the count area, compared to 26 in 2024.

With your support, we can continue to stand on the frontlines and ensure **no one is forgotten**.

Together, let's show our friends doing it tough that **they matter**.

Safe Church Awareness / Culture of Safety Training

Synod provides safe church training to all Uniting Church Ministry leaders and church council representatives so they can maintain safe places and programs, and to congregation safe church persons. This is not just about compliance, although there are many legal obligations to consider, it is primarily an outworking of our desire to make a Jesus-shaped difference in our communities.

All members of the church are able to attending this training. If you are interested there are a few sessions being held in our area in September. If you are interested in attending please click [here](#) for further information, or talk to Cathy.



Medicare rebates are available with select practitioners. We offer competitive fees and concession rates; however, please note that we do not provide a bulk billing service.

Our Practice Managers can provide a free 15 minute phone consultation to help find the best match from our team. Call us on 02 9683 1444 or email us at manager@bridgescounselling.com.au

For further information, please visit: www.bridgescounselling.com.au

Located in **Oatlands & Norwest**, our team of 20 plus experienced, Christian therapists have availability and are ready to support your staff and church community in:

- Mental Health & Wellbeing
- Faith struggles
- Burnout and ministry fatigue
- Grief, loss or trauma
- Depression and anxiety
- Support for missionaries (before, during, and after service)
- Addictions & Eating Disorders
- Trauma & PTSD
- Conflict resolution & communication
- Marriage, relationship, or family difficulties
- Pre-marriage counselling (Prepare/Enrich)
- Parenting challenges and family transitions

Uniting Church Assembly and Synod News Links

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

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

Parramatta Nepean Presbytery: <https://pnp.uca.org.au/>

Reflection of the Week

The search for contentment produces an inner restlessness, fed by the belief that we will never really be satisfied where we are. We suspect the answer is just beyond the next bend in the road and hope that someday we will reach our longed-for destination.

It might seem odd that we would study an ancient Bible story to find the explanation for our modern disease of discontent. But a spiritual cause is the only explanation for our restlessness. In the book of Genesis, restlessness first appears when Adam and Eve sin against God. The shame they feel after their disobedience brings uneasiness and restlessness to their life. Those traits became more than simply feelings when God cast them out of the Garden of Eden.

Although Adam and Eve were allowed to remain near the garden, they constantly sensed their loss of intimacy with God. Their sin put distance between them and their Creator. And the same is true for us. Our sin moves us far from God and steals our contentment.

The Bible begins with Creation. As God created matter out of nothing, He set aside a special place where He fellowshiped with Adam and then with Eve, too. It was an incredibly beautiful garden called Eden where Adam and Eve enjoyed unhindered communion with God. Scripture ends with the book of Revelation, which describes the New Jerusalem, a magnificent garden city that will come down from heaven. In between these two gardens, as we read the Biblical account, there was a middle garden—the Garden of Gethsemane.

At the beginning, Adam and Eve were placed in the garden as God's deputies. Similarly, Revelation depicts Jesus' followers ruling and reigning with Him. The Bible begins with a man and a woman in a place of tranquility and joy, and it ends with all believers in a place of infinite tranquillity and everlasting joy.

But just as the beginning mirrors the ending, there is much that happens in between. Not only does Scripture reveal the cause of our restlessness; it also leads us to the perfect solution. God provides a place of peace, rest, and belonging—a place where our search for contentment comes to an end.

In the meantime, we can experience peace here and now when we come to God through Christ. In the Garden of Gethsemane, He agreed to the Father's will that He pay the penalty for Adam's sin and the sins of all who would willingly receive Him as Lord and Saviour.

Prayer: Lord, reveal to me where I am restless so that I can lay those worries and inadequacies at Your feet. You know the motives behind my thoughts and actions. In Your Word, You promise that when I seek You, I will find You. Help me begin to trust that You alone are the source of true contentment. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever" (1 Chronicles 28:9).

Prayer Points for This Month

For Our Church

- Pray for enthusiasm among our members as we ask God for guidance as we look for ways to connect with our local community.
- Pray that Rod's ministry would be blessed as he preaches God's Word with authority & conviction and cares for our congregation.
- Please pray for leaders in our church, that they will have a spirit of humility and a heart to serve others.
- Pray for healing and restoration for those in need.

For the Wider Church

- Pray for wisdom for our senior church leaders as they find ways of working together to bring us your reconciliation and peace.
- Pray for other churches in our local area, and for Uniting Churches at Carlingford, West Epping, Parramatta and Baulkham Hills.
- Pray for the missionaries we support—Mike & Jacky, Richard & Lindsey, and Bill & Sandra—that they may continue to find meaningful ways to share God's Word with those who have not yet heard it.

For Australia

- Pray for the vulnerable, marginalized and voiceless, and bring justice to those who have suffered injustice.
- Pray that God will give our leaders wisdom & strength to work towards unity among all people.

For the World

- Pray for the world, asking for freedom from conflict, unity in troubled nations, and wisdom for world leaders.
 - May all governments and people of the world commit to looking after your creation.
 - Pray for peace around the world and that leaders will lead with compassion for their people.
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Ministry Leaders

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

Supply Minister: Rev Dr Rod Benson / 0412421678 / rod@northrocks.org.au

Church Council

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