



NEWSLETTER

18 - 24 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.



**All funds raised will go to help the work of
Parramatta Mission**

When? Saturday 6th September, 7.00pm

How much? \$10 includes tea & coffee

**Where? North Rocks Community Church,
132 North Rocks Road, North Rocks**

How many in a team? 8 people per table

**Do I need to book? You can register your team by
emailing the church office at enquiry@northrocks.org.au
by August 30,**

or join a table on the night.

**What you I need to bring? BYO nibbles and drinks, and
loose change for games on the night**



North Rocks Community Church
Revive, Restore, Reach Out
<https://northrocks.uca.org.au/>

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.

Traffic controllers will be on site and two-way traffic flow will be maintained.

It is expected that night work will be scheduled for up to five (5) nights a week.

Another weekend closure of North Rocks Road is anticipated later in the year.

Dates to be confirmed, more information will follow.

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	
30	Serving at NRPS Fete
Sept	
6	Trivia Night
13	Community Garden Working Bee
21	Annual General Meeting
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

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.



Join us for a special night of music and help raise funds for local and international aid projects.

Venue: Leigh Memorial Church, 119 Macquarie St, Parramatta

Date: Saturday 23 August

Time: 6.30 - 10.30pm



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

Jesus Invites Us to Respond to His Call

Read John 11:33-44.

In His supernatural intervention to raise Lazarus from the dead, Jesus proclaimed His Gospel with three actions.

First, Scripture tells us that Jesus groaned or wept (see John 11:35). There is no equivalence in English to the Greek word used. It's an expression of violent displeasure. In this moment, Jesus

was angry and indignant over what sin had done to humanity. Of course, the root cause of death is sin: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23). Only those who have been washed by the blood of Jesus Christ will escape eternal death in hell—the destination of all who reject His offer of grace and forgiveness.

Second, Jesus asked the people there to participate in the miracle, instructing them to "[t]ake away the stone" (John 11:39). You might wonder, "Couldn't Jesus, who could raise the dead with a word, move the stone Himself?" My friend, have you noticed throughout the signs in John's gospel that Jesus always used something or someone as He performed a miracle? In Cana of Galilee, He told the servants to fill the jars with water. In the feeding of the five thousand, He used a little boy's lunch. In the healing of the blind man, He used clay. You see, whatever and whenever God is working in your life, you still have to act. Even in salvation, which is by grace alone through faith alone and ultimately a gift from God, you still have to respond—you have to accept God's free gift.

Third, Jesus called Lazarus by name (see John 11:43). Jesus particularly called Lazarus into life once again, just as He calls each one of us out of our spiritual death into eternal life. But when Lazarus responded and came out, he was hampered by his graveclothes. In the Middle East, people were wrapped in burial cloth of linen. Lazarus' body was tied up in his graveclothes—he could only shuffle out. So Jesus gave the people watching another task: "Take off the grave clothes and let him go" (v. 44). This is a tangible picture of what happens to all of us spiritually when the Holy Spirit of God breathes into us and quickens our dead spirit. We walk around with the graveclothes of our past, which hinder us from growing in Christ and being effective for Him. They must be loosed in Jesus' name, and we must serve one another to loosen them, by pointing one another to the freedom of the Gospel.

Prayer: Lord, I know You have power over even death. Because You have secured my salvation, I know that death is just the door to Your face. As I walk the path You have planned for me, may I work to remove what hinders me from running the race of faith—what hinders me from pleasing You. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!'" (John 11:43).

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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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, Jenny Keyte