



NEWSLETTER

8 - 14 September 2025

Revive
Restore
Reach Out

Sunday Worship 9am

Prayer for Our Church

Dear God,

Help us to serve our community with open hands and open hearts. Teach us to look beyond ourselves—our needs, our routines, our comfort—and to see the people around us with Your eyes. Give us wisdom and courage to engage with those we don't yet know. Show us how to build bridges, offer kindness, and be a reflection of Your love in every corner of our community. May our actions speak louder than our words, and may everything we do point others toward You.

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

Last Saturday we enjoyed a very successful Trivia Night. Thank you to all who came on the night and also those who helped in many different ways to make the night a success.



Community Garden working bee

Please join us this Saturday, the 13th September, as we plant our Spring/Summer vegetables & herbs, enjoy some morning tea, & time getting to know each other. We'll start at 8.30am, we hope to see you there! Remember to extend this invitation to friends or family who live near the church.

North Rocks Road - nightworks continues

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.

Sometime soon, the Northbound lanes will be **completely closed for a month**.

Dates to be confirmed, more information will follow when the schedule is announced.

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

Sept	
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

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 said the world would know that we are His disciples by our love for one another (see John 13:35). The problem is that the world distorts the real meaning of love. We cannot adopt the redefinition of love to be synonymous with careless tolerance, an attitude of anything goes. This is a total misconception of what Scripture means by the word love. The Bible shows us that love includes discipline and self-control (see 1 Corinthians 13:4-8; Galatians 5:22-23; 2 Timothy 1:7).

We also know discipline is an important aspect of love because God's discipline is motivated by love: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son" (Hebrews 12:5-6). God disciplines His wayward children by bringing them into moral, spiritual discipline—not out of His wrath, as the world asserts, but because of His deep love. While the world often equates discipline with anger, vengeance, and hostility, God uses discipline to restore and reprove the believer—to bring out the very best, refining them in the likeness of Christ.

As a parent, We can attest that we would rather have avoided disciplining our children; doing so is often more painful for the parent than for the child. What motivated us to intervene was our love and devotion for our child. Our love forced us to act so that we could lead our children to choose to become men and women who honour God. In fact, discipline is an essential part of the bonding relationship between a parent and child.

A good father will lovingly discipline his children. A wise son or daughter will endure it (see Hebrews 12:7). If you do not receive discipline, Scripture says you are not truly a son or daughter—you are "illegitimate," which refers to the practices of ancient Rome (v. 8). Illegitimate children did not share the right of inheritance and were deprived of the benefits of a father-son bond. A child's illegitimacy was signified through not just a lack of benefits but a lack of discipline. So let's rejoice in the love of God displayed in His care for our soul and character, heeding the words of Jesus: "Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent" (Revelation 3:19).

Prayer: Father, thank You for Your love for me displayed in Your care to transform my heart for my good and to Your glory. Help me to endure and to be changed by Your discipline. Thank You that You are a good, gracious Father who is forming me more into the image of Your Son each day. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father?" (Hebrews 12:7).

Prayer Points for This Month

For Our Church

- Pray that God might enable and inspire members to use their spiritual gifts to serve each other and to bear spiritual fruit.
- Pray that Rod will know Your divine strength and wisdom as he leads our church.
- Pray for leaders in our church for wisdom to guide their decisions, strength to endure the challenges, and humility to serve as you called us to. May they lead with selfless love and kindness.
- Pray for our upcoming AGM.
- Pray for healing and restoration for those in need.

For the Wider Church

- Pray for healing of the divisions caused by sin, power, and money, and reconcile us across different cultures and languages. Unite us as Your children as we live together in Your love, revealing Your glory in the world.
- Pray for the leaders of Your church. Grant them wisdom, discernment, and strength to lead faithfully and courageously, hearing and acting upon Your Word
- 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 healing for those who are struggling or marginalised. May they find hope in You.
- Pray for our leaders, that they may govern with wisdom, compassion, and a commitment to justice for all. Grant us reconciliation, understanding, and unity, especially as a multicultural nation.

For the World

- Pray that all people might strive to protect the earth, its resources, and to live in harmony with the environment.
- Pray for guidance and good judgment for those in positions of power to make just decisions.
- Pray for a desire for conflicts to cease and for a sense of calm to spread across the globe.

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