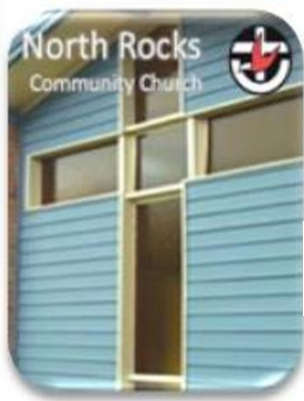




NEWSLETTER

20 -26 October 2025

Revive
Restore
Reach Out

Sunday Worship 9am

Prayer for Our Church

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gift of our church. Help us to serve faithfully, using the unique spiritual gifts You have given each of us to be Your hands and feet. Please bless our church community and keep our hearts centred on You. Empower us to reach out to those around us and share the goodness of who You are. May Your love overflow from our lives to every person we encounter.

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.

Term 4 Roster

The roster has been prepared and has been emailed out. If you need to change anything please swap with someone and email enquiry@northrocks.org.au so our roster can be updated.

Rod will be on leave

Rod will be taking a week's leave from Fri 24 Oct - Fri 31 Oct.

Christmas Services

We are looking for people who would like to help organise the special Christmas services for 24 Dec (6.30-7.30pm, preceded by a community barbecue), and 25 Dec (9.00-10.00am). If you have creative ideas, or would like to help on the night, and would like to join the team please talk to Rod.

Summary of Church Council Meeting

- Early next year we will be undertaking the **Practising the Way Course** encouraging spiritual formation built around teaching, community and practice. This will run from 1 February to 22 March. More information will be available in the coming months.

- We are looking for people to join a team to work on the organisation of our Christmas services. If you have creative ideas, or would like to help on the night and would like to join the team please talk to Rod.
- We are looking for people who might be interested in playing for our services. If you are interested please speak to Jenny or Cathy.

5 WEEK NORTHBOUND LANE CLOSURE of North Rocks Rd

From late October to early December (dates TBA) there will be a closure of North Rocks Rd to **ALL** Northbound traffic between Church St and the Woolworths entry. (Buses will be allowed.) Southbound traffic will be permitted, but there may be some delays.

There may be some Complete Weekend Closures as well.

More information will be provided when it becomes available.

The detour is as before:

via James Ruse Rd, Pennant Hills Rd, Bettington Rd/Statham Ave to the top end of North Rocks Rd and then down to the Church.

This detour is about 7km and you should allow an extra 15 minutes drive time on Sunday morning, and much more at other times.

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

Oct	
24	Men's Night Out
25	Community Garden
Nov	
8	Community Garden
30	Start of Advent
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

Read 1 John 3:11-24.

If we want to live life at its best, we must deal with our doubts about our salvation and the power of God. Otherwise, we will be vulnerable to a host of sins, notably to hatred. Jesus clearly addressed the devastating consequences of hatred in our hearts in His Sermon on the Mount when He says that even our thoughts are subject to judgment (see Matthew 5:21-22). So John reminds us of our calling: "For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. . . . Anyone who does not love remains in death" (1 John 3:11, 14).

Love should be the mark of every Christian (see John 13:35). And as we cling to Christ and stay focused on Him, this fruit will grow in our lives by the power of the Spirit (see Galatians 5:22-23). However, John gives us a warning to be prepared: "Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you" (1 John 3:13). Even in these instances, we must press on in love, for hatred destroys lives.

John gives examples of what it looks like to love, beginning with the greatest example: Jesus' sacrifice on the cross to save us (see 1 John 3:16-18). He says in the face of hate, we are to keep on loving without deciding if the person is worthy of our love or not. We love without self-interest—even if our love is met with ingratitude. You might respond, "That's impossible!" And I agree with you: In our own strength, it's impossible. But we've been given the power to do the impossible, and this is why all of this comes down to our doubt. Do we doubt the power of God given to us to love, forgive, and obey? Once you doubt that power, you are no longer drawing from His strength. But we can overcome doubt in life because even "if our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything" (1 John 3:20).

Today, recognize that God is bigger than your heart, bigger than your fear. He knows better; He knows all—your strengths and weaknesses, your successes and failures. He knows you are imperfect. That ought to bless us and not hurt us, to motivate us and not discourage us, because God has already accepted us through the precious blood of His Son. So let's take heart and answer a hostile world with the love of God by the power of God.

Prayer: Father, thank You for Your power at work in my heart to make me new, to transform me into Christ's likeness. I know You have power to grow my love for others and for You. May I develop deeper faith and draw on Your strength for the tasks You put before me every day. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us" (1 John 3:23).

Prayer Points for This Month

For Our Church

- Pray that we listen, speak, and act with grace, always seeking God's will in our actions.
- Pray for wisdom in decision-making, unity of purpose, and a heart for the well-being of our church. Pray for Church Council that they will be filled with wisdom, unity, and effective service.
- Pray for Rod and everyone involved in contributing to our services, that they may be Spirit-filled and guided in their roles.
- Pray for healing and restoration for those in need.

For the Wider Church

- Pray for the leaders of our local churches. Grant them wisdom, discernment, and strength to lead faithfully and courageously, hearing and acting upon Your Word
- Pray for the global Church to be united in a joint mission—to take the gospel to the ends of this earth. Let there be a revival across the world in Your name.
- Pray for those who have devoted their lives to spreading the gospel across the world, especially for the missionaries we support - Mike & Jacky Hammond, Richard & Lindsey Parker, and Bill & Sandra Callister.

For Australia

- Pray for respect for Indigenous cultures and histories, and for a journey towards peace and reconciliation.
- Pray for God to guide leaders toward wisdom and justice, and for a society that shows tolerance and respect to all people.
- Pray for a deeper understanding of God's truth, and a move of the Holy Spirit to bring spiritual revival to the nation and its people.

For the World

- Pray for all those who've had to flee their homes due to persecution and conflict. May they find loving communities where they can settle well and find healing from trauma.
 - Pray for countries to find diplomatic solutions that will bring harmony between nations and for wars to end.
 - Pray for all who are affected by natural disasters and issues of climate change that are having such a detrimental effect on people's livelihoods and putting many lives at risk.
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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

Transitional 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, Sue Vasilevska