



NEWSLETTER

15 – 21 December 2025

Revive
Restore
Reach Out

Sunday Worship 9am

Prayer for Our Church

Loving God,

As we enter this Christmas season, we thank You for the gift of Jesus, the true Light of the world. Guide our church to be a place of welcome and warmth for all who come from our community. Open our hearts to notice those around us and to share Your love in simple, meaningful ways. May everyone we meet come to know the real meaning of Christmas—the hope and joy found in Christ.

Bless our gatherings and conversations, and let Your light shine through us.

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.

Christmas Services

Please join us for our Christmas services.

On Christmas Eve we have a sausage sizzle at 5.30pm before our Carols service at 6.30-7.30pm.

On Christmas Day we are celebrating our Saviour's birth from 9am.

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve	Christmas Day
Wednesday 24 December	Thursday 25 December
5.30pm sausage sizzle.	9am Christmas Day Service
6.30pm Carol Service	

North Rocks Community Church
132 North Rocks Road, North Rocks

Prayer in response to Bondi massacre

God of wisdom and power,

who fashioned each grain of sand on Bondi Beach,
fine and beautiful beneath our feet,
who spoke land into being and patiently watched
as craggy sandstone cliffs took shape,
weathered witnesses to time and tide,

whose creative mind gifted us with curling breakers
and sparkling emerald waters alive with current and light,
and smooth green lawns and cool sea breezes and shady trees,
generous spaces of rest and laughter:

In these gifts we glimpse your artistry, your patience, your joy.
Teach us to receive this ordinary beauty with deep gratitude,
to guard it with care, and to walk gently upon it.

God of mercy and grace,

we come before you today with shaken hearts and heavy souls,
reeling from the terror and trauma of the recent violence at Bondi Beach.
What should have been a place of beauty and joy and peace
has become a place of deep sorrow and fear.
We cry to you, O God, because we do not know where else to turn.

Draw near to those who have been harmed,
their families and loved ones, and all who are distressed by this senseless act.
Hold them in their grief, surround them with compassion,
and grant them strength for the long road ahead.

We pray for those who are injured in body and in mind:
for healing, for skilled care, and for patience and hope
as wounds, both seen and unseen, begin to mend.
We give thanks for the courage and compassion
of first responders, NSW Police and emergency services.

God of justice and love,

we ask for swift and righteous accountability for those who do evil,
that truth may be known and justice done,
and that our hearts will not be hardened, increasing the moral darkness.

As a community, help us to light the candle

of fraternity, justice, goodness;
to be instruments of comfort, healing and mercy,
especially to those who seem different.

As a community, help us to demonstrate the best of humanity
after seeing the worst:

Peace over violence, love over hate, solidarity over separation.
Give us grace to show visible signs of hope, love, and peace
in our streets, our homes, and our words.

God of peace and hope,

Amid tragedy, we recognise our common humanity
and celebrate the image of God in one another.

We recall that the Jewish festival of Chanukah
and the Christian celebration of Christmas
together remind us that light shines only when love and justice prevail.

We long to come together with genuine love and care.

Help us to stand together in solidarity and remain steadfast
in rejecting violence, resisting fear and division, and working for peace.
Grant us the grace to work as a community here in Sydney
to foster empathy, social cohesion, safety and wellbeing for all.
And we pray that, through your grace and mercy, such deadly violence
never comes again to our shores.

Heal us, Lord, and lead us forward together by your grace,
in the sure knowledge that your light is stronger than the darkest night.
We pray this in the strong name of Jesus Christ our Lord,
the Light of the World. **Amen.**

LATEST ON NORTH ROCKS ROAD CLOSURES

Currently the Closure of all Northbound traffic 24 hours per day between Church St and the Woolworths entry continues until late on Thursday 18th December.
Southbound traffic is permitted, but there may be some delays.

From Friday 19th December until June 2026, two way traffic will be allowed with some delays.
There may be a few Complete Weekend Closures during that period.
We will keep you informed of any changed details.

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

Dec	
21	Guest Preacher: Sathi Clarke
24	Christmas Eve
25	Christmas Day Service 9am
2026	
Jan	
10 & 24	Community Garden
Feb	
21	An Afternoon in Song

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

Different ways you can help those in need this Christmas

If you are looking for ways to help those in need please click on the images below for charities to donate to, or presents to give your friends and family that will make a difference to someone in need.

PLATE FOR A MATE

Click Here

Parramatta Mission

175 HOTEL

wesley

Uniting Church

This Christmas, donate a

Plate for a Mate

Your gift will provide food and support to those in need.

JUST ONE

ACT OF KINDNESS
CAN CHANGE A LIFE

MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR JUST ONE TODAY

Christmas Bowl

THERE'S HISTORY IN THIS BOWL

Everything
in Common

GIFT CATALOGUE

Gifts that *fight poverty*
and build hope!

Useful Gifts

Meaningful
Shop

tearfund

usefulgifts.org

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

Luke 1:26-38.

Mary's deep, abiding relationship with God is truly a model for all of us, young or old, to emulate. Because she had a self-image grounded in God's Word, she was able to hold her head high—not faking it but trusting in the Lord for her peace. Mary knew the promises God had made to His people in the Old Testament. These were her ancestors, and she shared their hope. So, when the angel Gabriel appeared to her and told her God had chosen her to be the mother of His Son, she humbled herself and accepted God's will for her life.

In our celebrity-crazed culture, people adore the so-called "important people." But God uses the humble and unknown. He seeks out and calls those with a contrite heart. There are some who try to emulate the immoral, worldly lifestyles of Hollywood celebrities, but God blesses those who are pure in spirit. People may admire the ruthless and arrogant, but God despises such attitudes; He lifts up the humble.

For centuries, artists have attempted to capture Mary's beauty in paintings and in sculptures. But the focus of Scripture is on the beauty of Mary's holiness. She was striking not because of her physical features or any adornments she may have worn but because of the way she surrendered her life fully and completely to God.

Mary knew the miracle of God's favour—His grace, mercy, and love—and it humbled her so that she delighted to obey. Are you taking this miracle for granted? Don't lose your passion for the miracle of salvation—the miracle that through Christ, you are favoured by God. This Truth will both humble your heart and give you peace as you trust your Lord to sustain you through every circumstance.

Prayer: Lord, I am in awe of Your matchless love. Thank You for making me a new creation in Christ. I praise You for Your grace and mercy toward me. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you'" (Luke 1:28).

Prayer Points for This Month

For Our Church

- Pray for listening hearts this Christmas season, that in the midst of celebration we would hear God's guiding voice.
- Pray for encouragement and strength for all who faithfully serve in our church family.
- Pray for Rod, that the Holy Spirit would continue to inspire and uphold him as he teaches and leads us, helping us grow in faith and in our understanding of the true meaning of Christmas.
- Pray for those in need of healing and restoration.

For the Wider Church

- Pray for those involved, from Parramatta Nepean, Murray Darling and Sydney presbyteries, in working together to become the new Central Presbytery.
- Pray for strength and perseverance for churches around the world that they may share the message of Christmas to the communities in which they worship.
- Pray for those in mission as they reach out to those who do not yet know you. We pray especially for the missionaries we support - Mike & Jacky Hammond, Richard & Lindsey Parker, and Bill & Sandra Callister.

For Australia

- Pray for a peaceful Christmas season for all Australians, for comfort and calm for those in distress.
- Pray for safety and resilience for communities facing natural disasters like fires, floods, and droughts.
- Pray for reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.
- Pray for those working to protect the environment and for more effective action to safeguard the planet for future generations.

For the World

- "We pray for the whole human family, that the glory of Christmas will shine forth across the earth and bring fresh heart to all who long for peace."
- "We pray for the nations and peoples of the Middle East, that the catastrophic toll of death and destruction there will finally persuade leaders to agree to terms of peace."
- "We pray for peace, justice, and wisdom for those in positions of authority, and for the salvation of all people, that they may come to know Christ."

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

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