



NEWSLETTER

6 - 12 April 2026

Revive
Restore
Reach Out

Sunday Worship 9am

Prayer for Our Church

Dear God,
We pray that this Easter season we may be renewed in the joy of the resurrection, boldly proclaiming the Gospel. We pray that your spirit may guide and strengthen us in our mission and service to you. Help us to be unified and passionate about people coming to know and love you. Let us be a church who shows love in action, extending mercy and welcoming those who join with us this Easter.
Amen



You are invited to pray this prayer individually, in small groups, Bible study groups or at other gatherings during the week.

Prayer request from Sandra & Bill Callister

Hi everyone

Could we ask you to pray for the Misima and Saisai communities in particular, as Cyclone Maila is predicted to pass over Misima late Friday, with maximum winds of 99 km/h, and gusting up to 137 km/h. Pray for the Lord to have mercy and grace over them all - to divert the cyclone harmlessly into the ocean somewhere!

The Misima team were planning to work on translation again this week but are staying in their homes and praying for protection. It is over 70 years since the last really bad cyclone on the island. The Saisai (small islands to S-E of Misima) translators also were hoping to complete the final read-through with checkers of their book of Acts, but this has been postponed. (They get cyclones much more often than Misima.)

Here is what SIL-PNG (we are members of SIL and Wycliffe Bible Translators) sent out on Tuesday 6 April:

Overview

Tropical Cyclone Maila developed in the Solomon Seas and intensified into a Category 3 severe tropical cyclone on 06 April 2026, with sustained winds near the center of 150 km/h with wind gusts to 205 km/h. Although the system has been slow moving since 06-07 April, this causes increased risk of prolonged rainfall, coastal inundation, and strong winds across affected areas. There is also concern of potential rapid deterioration if the system lingers or shifts track.

Term 2 Roster

The roster for May to July is currently being prepared. If you know you will be away at any time please email enquiry@northrocks.org.au. If you wish to change your commitment to the roster in any w

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

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.

April	
11 & 25	Community Garden
18	Ladies' Morning Tea
May	
9 & 23	Community Garden
31	Celebrating Practising the Way
July	
25	Trivia Night
August	
2	Families' Service

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 Philippians 2:5-11.

Every one of us—all eight billion people alive in the world today—was born with a spiritual debt that we could never repay. At first, we inherited it, and then we added to it. But God in His mercy has provided a way of escape from this prison of spiritual debt. On the cross, God the Son paid it all so that every repentant sinner who comes to Christ in faith can be set free from this crushing debt.

But who crucified Jesus? Some say it was Judas, who, out of greed, delivered Jesus to the priests. Others would say it was the priests, who handed Jesus over to Pontius Pilate. Still others would say it was Pilate, who signed off on Jesus' execution. But when Jesus was hanging on that cross in agony, He prayed, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34).

The Truth is Jesus chose the cross for Himself. He went to the cross deliberately and willingly. He came from heaven and was born as a baby to die upon it. At the right time, He set His face toward Jerusalem (see Luke 9:51). He would not let His disciples or anyone else sway Him; He knew He had come to die in this way. Jesus willingly, voluntarily, resolutely went to the cross. And He did it out of love, a love so great that He stood in our place, bearing the crushing punishment for our sin and satisfying forever the justice of God. This is the greatest story ever told, the greatest news for the lost and wayward soul, the greatest gift you could ever receive. Do you know the forgiveness and love of God?

Prayer: Jesus, Your love overwhelms me. I cannot fully fathom it; it humbles and sustains me. You are my Rock and my Redeemer. I long to live for You, the lover of my soul. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!" (Philippians 2:8)

Prayer Points for This Month

For Our Church

- Pray that the Holy Spirit will fill us with love and unity in our diversity.
- Pray that Rod will discern Your will and lead us with clarity and conviction.
- Pray for wisdom, patience and guidance for church council as they plan for the future of NRCC.
- Pray for healing and restoration for those in need

For the Wider Church

- Pray for the Presbytery Ministries of Parramatta Nepean Presbyteries – Bidwell Uniting, Suburban Seeds and Lifeline Macarthur & Western Sydney.
- Pray for strength and perseverance for the church in countries that persecute Christians for their faith in God.
- 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

- Prayers that leaders will listen to those whom they serve, and make decisions for the good of all people.
- Pray for all who call Australia home. May we work together and learn from each other to create a sense of unity.

For the World

- We pray for peace around the world, for countries to find diplomatic solutions that will bring harmony between the nations.
- Pray that churches around the world focus on unity, faithfulness to the gospel and strengthening believers amid suffering.
- We [pray](#) for The Balkans - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia.

Prayers

E - give (Anonymous Direct Electronic Giving)

Account Name: North Rocks CC - Giving

(BSB): 634634 **Account Number:** 100025906

If you have a confidential prayer request please contact Bev (0404 809 102).

If you have pastoral care needs or would like to share a prayer request in the newsletter please contact Cathy (0411 055 403) or another member of the Pastoral Care Team.

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