



NEWSLETTER

13 - 19 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.

Update from Sandra & Bill Callister

Hi Everyone,

Thanks so much for praying, and for sending us encouraging messages, while we waited to see what the weather would bring.

Cyclone Maila did not pass over Misima (as predicted) but wandered around in circles for nearly a week between Misima and the Solomon Islands. It has now largely 'unravalled' and been downgraded to a tropical low. There has been no significant rain or wind over the weekend in the Misima and Saisai areas.

However we have heard second-hand reports that there was flooding on the eastern end of the island, where the administrative centre/town is located and other low-lying villages. Many houses have been blown down in various parts of the island. So there will be quite a lot of mopping-up to be done, including rebuilding etc.

But praise the Lord for his grace and mercy, it seems things could have been a lot worse.

With grateful thanks
Sandra & Bill

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 way

Would you like to meet with Rod?

Rod is available to meet with people for a pastoral conversation or prayer, either at the church or at a cafe. If it is easier he can come to you. Please phone him to work out a time.

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



Celebrate our unity and fellowship in Christ

Our annual celebration of Christian unity with a Service of Prayer and Fundraising Dinner will this year be co-hosted by Bishop Vincent Long and St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta on Friday 22 May from 6pm – 9.15pm. Tickets selling fast! [Click to reserve seats now.](#)

▪ **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

There is no power over temptation nor victory over sin without spending time with God in prayer. James Montgomery, who was a great man of prayer, wrote these lyrics in his hymn "Prayer Is the Soul's Sincere Desire": Prayer is the Christian's vital breath. *The Christian's native air; His watchword at the gates of death; He enters Heav'n with prayer.*

Prayer should be our first option rather than the final effort. When trouble approaches, we need to run to God in prayer. If you are weary and feel heavy-laden, take time to pray. When life is joyful, take time to praise God for His goodness through prayer.

Moses prayed, and water flowed from a rock. Joshua prayed, and the sun stood still. Hannah prayed, and God gave her a son. David prayed, and Goliath fell. Elijah prayed, and fire rained down from heaven. Daniel prayed, and God closed the lions' mouths. Jesus prayed, and 5,000 people were fed and satisfied with a little boy's lunch. When Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, the demons shook with terror. Heaven's boundless power and strength are ours when we pray and align our will with God's perfect plan.

Are you discouraged and despondent? Pray. Do you feel defeated by sin? Pray. Does it seem as if your life and personal relationships are falling apart? Your greatest needs can be met through prayer.

God is not challenged by your sin or difficult circumstances. Prayer is the avenue He uses to restore your soul and to prepare you to live the life He has given you. Therefore, pray, knowing that when you draw near to Him, He will draw near to you.

Prayer: Lord, in Your mercy, restore my soul and prepare me for the life You have planned for me. I want to live for You and trust You to finish Your work in me. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"Come near to God and he will come near to you. . . . Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up" (James 4:8, 10).

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 Bulgaria, Hungary & Romania.

E - give (Anonymous Direct Electronic Giving)

Account Name: North Rocks CC - Giving
(BSB): 634634 **Account Number:** 100025906

Prayers

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