



# NEWSLETTER

20 - 26 April 2026

**R**evive  
**R**estore  
**R**each 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.

### Guest Preacher

Rod is on leave this week. We welcome back Clive Pearson to preach at our service this Sunday.

### 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	
25	Community Garden
May	
24	Pentecost
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.](#)

Be part of *A Place at the Table* - a meaningful fundraising dinner supporting Meals Plus.

Join us as we share a meal, build connection and raise awareness for those in our community facing homelessness and hardship

Friday 15 May, 2026  
6.00 pm - 9.00 pm  
119 Macquarie St.  
Parramatta

MealsPlus Parramatta Mission

### ▪ **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 John 13:1-17.

The cross was central to Jesus' earthly life at every stage. From His virgin birth to His public ministry, the cry of His life was to finish the work the Father had given Him to do.

A short time after His baptism, Jesus went to a wedding in the small Galilean town of Cana (see John 2). He was not yet well known. The crowds weren't yet following Him wherever He went. And yet He was already looking ahead to the cross. We know this because when His mother came to Him with a crisis—the bride and groom had run out of wine—Jesus replied, "My hour has not yet come" (v. 4). What hour was Jesus talking about? The hour of His death, the hour of His sacrifice, the hour when He could finally say, "It is finished" (John 19:30).

Later, at the time of the Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus again demonstrated His understanding of who He was and the purpose for which He walked this earth. His brothers, who did not yet believe that He was the Messiah, taunted Him, saying, "No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret" (John 7:4). This was no kind comment. The Jewish leaders in Judea were already looking for a way to kill Jesus (see v. 1). Yet He responded, "My time is not yet here; . . ." (v. 6). Jesus was thinking about His death.

Then, in John 13, Jesus gathered with His disciples for what would be His last meal before His betrayal, arrest, and crucifixion. He got up in the middle of dinner, grabbed a basin and a towel, and began washing His disciples' feet. Our Lord set this poignant example for His disciples—including us—to follow because He "knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father" (v. 1, see also vv. 14-15).

Jesus was always thinking about the hour of His death. He knew it was the Father's will for Him to bear our sins on the cross. It was His joy to obey the Father and save sinners. May we grasp the wonder that God "did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all" (Romans 8:32).

*Prayer: Jesus, thank You for Your incredible love that led You to the cross in obedience to the Father. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

**"Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father" (John 13:1).**

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## 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 Belarus, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine

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### 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](mailto:rod@northrocks.org.au)

## Church Council

Chairperson: Cathy Nelson Secretary: Samson Leung Treasurer: Anne Crabb  
Alex Chow, Jenny Keyte, Sue Vasilevska