



NEWSLETTER

27 April – 3 May 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.

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.

Summary of the Church Council Meeting

- Jane & Quentin are organising a Lamington Drive on 5 September. More information will be coming soon.
- Jacky will be organising the Fair Trade Market on 5 December.

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.

May	
9 & 23	Community Garden
24	Pentecost
31	Celebrating Practising the Way
July	
25	Trivia Night
August	
2	Families' Service
September	
5	Lamington Drive
December	
5	Fair Trade Market

Community News and Notices

Friends of the Middle East Theological Library Support

Please donate to help the Near East School of Theology continue to access E-books from The Camden Theological Library (CTL). For more information please click [here](#).

Friends of the Middle East



**Re: E-books for the
Near East School of Theology
(NEST) in Beirut.**

If you would like to consider offering some financial assistance, **please email: library@nswact.uca.org.au with the subject 'NEST'.**

Every donation counts.
Donations of over \$20 will attract a tax deduction.

The only way to donate specifically to the e-books is directly via the library as shown above and not via the FME website.



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

When we miss God's purpose in prayer, we miss God's best. It is important to know that the purpose of prayer is for God to be glorified.

God is the focus of prayer because, through prayer, God reveals His goodness and power. Jesus said, "I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son" (John 14:13). Indeed, prayer is for God's glory—not just for our needs. However, when God meets our needs, He is glorified.

There are some who see prayer simply as an action that aligns us with what God has already foreordained. They say there is nothing we can do other than conform to His will. On the other hand, some think that prayer is asking God to do what He would not and could not do without our requests.

Actually, the Scripture teaches both views—and we are under obligation before God to hold both views in tension. The Bible teaches that God is, without a doubt, sovereign. The Bible also teaches that God, within His sovereignty, responds to His people when they pray with a right focus.

Likewise, there are people who are terrified of asking God for anything, but this is not consistent with His will for our relationship with Him or our prayers to Him. Then, others treat God like a

bellhop who moves only at their command. Both approaches to prayer are extreme, and both are wrong.

Remember that we are God's children through Jesus Christ. When children are young—and even sometimes when they are older—they ask for all kinds of things. Do we give them everything they want? Of course, we don't. We give them what we believe is best for them. If we, as fallen men and women, know how to give good gifts to our children, how much more does our heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask Him (see Matthew 7:11)? May we grow in faith to bring mature requests to God with hearts that say, "Not my will, but Yours be done, Lord."

Prayer: Father, thank You that You want to hear from Your children and that You glorify Yourself as You meet our needs. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).

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 Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia
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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