



NEWSLETTER

4 - 10 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.

Latest Newsletter from the Hammonds

Please click [here](#) for the latest newsletter from Jacky and Mike.

Response from Church Council to matters arising from the congregational meeting.

1. ***It was agreed that Church council be requested to clarify whether rental from the manse can be used to pay the minister's housing allowance.***

CC noted that the actual wording of the agreement with Presbytery and Synod about the Manse rent was "The income will be used to build up our Property Maintenance reserves and general reserves". It is understood that money in the Property Maintenance Reserves is intended to be used for property maintenance and improvement, however it is not permanently locked away and can be used if urgently needed for other activities subject to having both CC and Congregation motions. Our current finances allow us to pay the minister's housing allowance from general revenue. If that changes this can be reviewed.

2. ***It was agreed that Church Council be requested to clarify the current arrangement with the Korean church which uses our buildings, especially relating to terms and times of usage, and that there should be a written and signed agreement.***

The Korean church who use our premises have done so for 12 years and over that time arrangements have been fairly consistent. On a number of occasions they have been asked, and have been happy to, adjust times or make alternative arrangements if we need the hall at those times. They have booked in the following times through our office:

Sunday 11.30am - 2pm (It is noted that NRCC only has it booked until 11am).

Saturday prayer meeting 6-7.30am

Wednesday prayer meeting 7.30-9pm.

Dennis has been asked to draw up a written agreement to reflect this arrangement.

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

Invitation - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



 NSW ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

**SERVICE OF PRAYER
FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY
AND FUNDRAISING DINNER**

Co-hosted by Bishop Vincent Long
& the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta.

 Friday 22 May 2026

 5.45 for 6.00 – 9.15 pm

 St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta

 Tickets \$75

BOOK NOW:
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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.



▪ 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

Have you ever wondered how Moses handled discouragement? Or how Paul maintained a positive attitude when he faced the criticism and threats of others?

Surely Paul fought with discouragement when he faced the threat of death. However, he kept his focus set on Christ, his source of infinite strength and eternal hope. We can do the same.

Life may have many challenges—especially when you are doing what God has given you to do and the world and the devil rise up to hinder you. But you don't have to be overwhelmed by disappointment. We should long to be heroes of the faith—people who seek to win the race set before us and to achieve the goal that God has given.

When trouble comes, don't give up. Don't lose heart, and don't listen to harassment. God has a plan for your life. When you feel like quitting, think about Paul's life and all he did for the Lord. He was not called to be famous or to have a vast sum of money. He was called by God to preach His Word to the lost. Paul did exactly what he was called to do. He obeyed God and surrendered his life to Christ. He went from being a man of position in the Jewish faith to an outcast and traitor. What may have appeared to be failure from a human standpoint was actually the mark of true victory.

God does not ask you to cross a finish line with the goal of reaching worldly success. He does not hand out trophies that look good in a case or sitting on a shelf. Our reward is eternal and kept in heaven for us—the crown of life promised to those who love the Lord, who delight in Him and follow and obey Him because of that delight (see James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:4; John 14:15, 21, 23).

Forsaking all else because Christ alone is worthy, will you follow Jesus and proclaim His love and forgiveness to a dying world?

Prayer: Father, help me look to You—my utmost treasure—when I am facing discouragement and disappointment. You are my very great reward, and I know I have nothing to fear because You have overcome the world. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him" (James 1:12).

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 Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
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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