



# NEWSLETTER

18 - 24 May 2026

Revive  
Restore  
Reach Out

## Sunday Worship 9am

### Prayer for Our Church

Dear God,

We come before you with grateful hearts as we celebrate the gift of your Spirit at Pentecost. Thank you that your Spirit is given freely to all who trust in you. Deepen our understanding of your word and help us to live it out faithfully each day. Guide us with your wisdom as we make decisions that honour you and strengthen your work within our community.

Amen.



### Celebrating Practicing the Way

On Sunday 31 May we will be including a segment in our service to reflect on and celebrate Practicing the Way.

You are encouraged to reflect on what you learnt, what you got out of the course, and what changes you have made in the regular rhythms of your life to attend to your spiritual formation, and write down some notes, in preparation for sharing a few words at the service.

The eight topics that formed the heart of the eight week series are:

- Following Jesus
- Formation Part 1
- Formation Part 2
- The Practices
- Meeting God in Pain and Suffering
- Healing from Sin
- Crafting a Rule of Life
- Life Together

It is hoped that this will be a good opportunity to share our experiences with each other.

## 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.

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](mailto: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/>

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## Reflection of the Week

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the ultimate atonement for the sins of mankind. Whatever skeletons are in your closet, whatever dark secrets are in your memory, whatever past is shaming and condemning you, whatever memory is tormenting you—Jesus Christ offers forgiveness and redemption.

Because Jesus rose victoriously from the dead, God assures you that by His death on the cross, your sins can be forgiven. The resurrection assures you of God's power—power to illuminate and transform your heart. Power to open your eyes to receive the Truth. Power to change you from a selfish person to a selfless person.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ changes people, bringing them from spiritual death to life. When you receive Jesus as your Savior and Lord, "you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator" (Colossians 3:9-10). Indeed, "if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (2 Corinthians 5:17). Because of the resurrection, hatred can be turned into love, despair into rejoicing, defeat into victory. And it assures you of your ultimate triumph. When you place your faith in the risen Christ, comfort and assurance of the future are yours. You will be given a body like His resurrection body. You will spend eternity with Him.

Jesus came to earth in human form, and one day, He will return with spectacular magnificence to bring history to its fulfillment in eternity.

Not only will He raise the dead, but He will make all things new. Jesus' resurrection is a pledge of salvation and complete redemption to all who surrender to Him—who dwell under the shadow of His wings, who ask for and receive His forgiveness, and who place Him at the centre of their lives.

*Prayer: God, thank You for the promise of resurrection. Thank You that I experience new life even now. I trust You for that day when all will be made new. Your mercy and goodness lift me up. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

**"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace . . ." (Ephesians 1:7).**

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# Prayer Points for This Month

## For Our Church

- Pray for perseverance in our faith strengthening us to keep our eyes on Jesus.
- Pray for the leaders in our church that you will enable them to lead with integrity, compassion, and a deep commitment to Your Word.
- Pray for Rod, for wisdom in his leadership and discernment in his decisions.
- Pray for healing and restoration for those in need.

## For the Wider Church

- Pray for greater unity among believers around the world and help us to love one another as you love us.
- Pray for community services organisations connected to local UCA congregations: [Gateway Family Services](#), [Junction 142](#), [Parramatta Mission](#) and [Castlereagh Conference Centre](#).
- We pray for protection, strength, and comfort to be with those around the world who suffer for their faith.
- 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

- Pray for those who are struggling with the cost of living.
- Pray for reconciliation between all who call Australia home.
- Pray for wisdom for leaders to make decisions for the good of all Australians.

## For the World

- Pray for peace for those living in areas of increased conflict. May they know the hope that can only be found in God.
- Pray for guidance for world leaders that they might find ways to work together for the good of all.
- [Pray](#) for Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal

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

## **Church Council**

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