



# NEWSLETTER

25 - 31 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.

## 30 Days | 30 Voices | One Church in Prayer

From Pentecost Sunday on 24 May to the 49th Anniversary of the Uniting Church in Australia on 22 June, we are embarking on a shared season of national prayer.

Over these thirty days, thirty voices from across the Church will come together. Each day, a new voice will lead us in praying as one body around a single, unifying

question: ***“What does it mean to be woven together in Christ's love across cultures and boundaries?”***



The national prayer chain is one of the most significant parts of the Uniting in Prayer event, connecting every part of the Uniting Church - local communities, agencies, schools, and councils - to each other in prayer through the 35 days. NRCC will be praying for Moonta UC (SA) & Gladstone UC (Qld)

If you would like more information click [here](#).

### 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	
31	Celebrating Practising the Way
July	
25	Trivia Night
August	
2	Families' Service
September	
5	Lamington Drive
13	Congregational AGM
December	
5	Fair Trade Market

## Community News and Notices



On June 13th, 2026, the Body of Christ will converge on Blacktown Showgrounds for a historic day of worship, prayer, and activation. Marking the 420th anniversary of the declaration of Australia as the 'Great South Land of the Holy Spirit,' Pentecost 26: Australia Arise is a strategic gathering designed to unify the church and launch a decade of harvest. Join us as we align with the Reach Australia 2033 vision to see every person in our nation encounter the love of Jesus.

For more information or to buy tickets click [here](#).

### ▪ 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

Hebrews 4:16 says, "Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." This is an invitation for all who put their trust in Jesus Christ to experience the awesome power of God's grace that flows from His very throne.

Hebrews 4:16 is an invitation to come to the throne that was converted from a throne of judgment to a throne of grace. There, you will experience unbelievable and untold blessings from the hand of God.

God the Son, who sits at the right hand of God, is our great High Priest. Our Great High Priest understands us. Our Great High Priest sympathizes with us. Our Great High Priest knows our weaknesses. "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin" (Hebrews 4:15).

As our Great High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ waits for us every single day to come to the throne of God—not for condemnation but for blessing. As our Great High Priest, He is waiting for us every single day to come to the throne of grace so He can give us power over temptation. As our Great High Priest, He is waiting for us in order that we may receive victory over the trials of life.

When we come boldly by the blood of Jesus to the throne of God each day, trusting Him for salvation and

for the transformation He is working in our hearts, we will be equipped to face anything that comes our way. Our Great High Priest is with us—His Spirit indwells us and empowers us to say no to sin and yes to righteousness (see 1 Peter 2:24 and Titus 2:11-12).

*Prayer: Great High Priest, thank You for allowing me to approach the throne of grace with confidence. May I never take such a gift for granted but humbly come before You daily with my praises and petitions. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

**"In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence" (Ephesians 3:12).**

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

### Church Council

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