



# NEWSLETTER

1 – 7 June 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.



### 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/>

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## Dates for your Diary

June	
13 & 27	Community Garden
July	
11 & 25	Community Garden
25	Trivia Night
August	
2	Families' Service
September	
5	Lamington Drive
13	Congregational AGM
December	
5	Fair Trade Market

**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.

## Community News and Notices



**Prime Timers' Expo**  
A CALL TO SERVE IN YOUR PRIME YEARS

**SATURDAY 13 JUNE 2026, 1 PM - 5 PM**

Christ Church St Ives - 1 Cowan Rd, St Ives NSW  
Cost: \$20. Register by 8 June via the QR code  
or at <https://events.humanitix.com/ptexpo>

*Prime Timers' Expo is a half-day event designed to inspire, encourage, and connect Christians in their "second half of life" with meaningful ministry opportunities.*

Hosted by Prime Time Ministry,  
Learn more at <https://primetimeministry.org/>

TGC

Here's an opportunity for anyone over 50 who might be thinking about exploring ministry opportunities, either locally or wider afield, perhaps especially for those who might have taken, or thinking about, early retirement.

The key speaker is Mike Raiter, who is well known in Sydney circles, and served cross-culturally overseas with Interserve in Pakistan for a number years.

The afternoon is all about thinking of ministry opportunities both local and abroad for the over 50s. SIM will be hosting one of the stalls there and will have a few reps available to chat.

Who Is This For?

Christians in their "second half of life" who want to:

- Be encouraged and inspired alongside others in their prime years
- Explore new or different ministry opportunities
- Serve God with purpose in this season of life"



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](#)

When Emperor Domitian came to rule in 81 AD, he demanded that everyone worship him as god. He required everyone to burn incense in front of his statue in every town in the Roman Empire and declare him their god.

John, then in his early 90s, was the pastor of the church of Ephesus, and he led the church in Truth. He continued to preach that Jesus alone was to be worshiped as the only way to salvation amidst the idolatry of the surrounding polytheistic culture. Because John did not compromise, he suffered exile to the island of Patmos.

Emperor Domitian thought he could silence John by exiling him, but John would not be defeated. Exile may have separated him from Christian fellowship, but it never separated him from the Lord Jesus Christ. The emperor thought that he could break John's spirit, but John was filled with the Holy Spirit, and he would not be broken.

The enemies of God thought they could banish John and silence the message of the Gospel, but God turned it into the most powerful vision of eternity we've ever been given—the book of Revelation. Because John yielded to the Holy Spirit and not to his circumstances, God transformed his punishment into praise, his pain into gain, and his stagnation into revelation.

When you are in your Patmos, go to God and let Him remind you of His promises so that by His Spirit He will grow your faith and lift you up. Indeed, His Word calls us to "Consider it pure joy, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything" (James 1:2-4, emphasis added).

*Prayer: God, give me a vision of eternity with You so that I can bear up under pressure. Holy Spirit, help me to be more like Christ. Let me see my trials as opportunities to mature in faith and thus bring honour and glory to Your name. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

**"We also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us" (Romans 5:3-5).**

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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 Angola, Mozambique

**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