



# NEWSLETTER

29 June – 5 July 2026

Revive  
Restore  
Reach Out

## Sunday Worship 9am

### Prayer for Our Church

Dear God,

Loving and Gracious God, we lift up the members of the JNC. Grant them the wisdom to discern Your will and the patience to wait upon Your timing. Unite their hearts and minds as they seek a faithful leader to guide this congregation. Bless their discussions, give them clarity of vision, and fill them with peace in every decision they make. In Your holy name, Amen.



### Trivia Night

Trivia night is just over a month away. Please invite your friends to come along for a fun evening. The event is on Facebook to share or you can pick up some flyers at the back of the church.

Please bring donations for tombalah and prizes - this could include, chocolates, chocolate biscuits, packets of lollies, tea, jam etc

We are also looking for table hosts, a volunteer to run a silent auction and 2 people to assist in welcoming people on arrival. Please

see Sue if you have any questions. Donations can be given to Sue, Bill or Cathy after church.

All money raised will be donated to Parramatta Mission

### Term 3 Roster

The roster for May to July is currently being prepared. If you know you will be away at any time please email [enquiry@northrocks.org.au](mailto:enquiry@northrocks.org.au). If you wish to change your commitment to the roster in any way please email or talk to Cathy.

### Latest Newsletter from the Hammonds

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

## 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

July	
11 & 25	Community Garden
25	Trivia Night
August	
2	Families' Service
September	
5	Lamington Drive
13	Congregational AGM
October	
18	National Christian Life Survey
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



### Invitation

#### A Talanoa on Decolonising Spirituality

A talanoa is a Pacific practice of gathering to share stories, wisdom, questions and challenges through deep listening and respectful dialogue. Come along and engage with inspiring speakers from the Pacific and Australia.

Pitt Street Uniting Church, Sydney, 5th July, Sunday at 2:00 pm.

(with finger food served from 1:30 pm, and the panel discussion commencing at 2:00 pm), free registration.

To register click here.

BEYOND THE CALL OF CONFESSIONS ACROSS THE PACIFIC: RECLAIMING OUR VOICES

# DECOLONISING SPIRITUALITY

## TALANOA

Invitation to a circle of deep listening

CONVERSATION WITH SPEAKERS

Rev James Okagawa  
General Secretary  
Pacific Conference of Churches

Mere Taylor  
Ms. Justice, Activist and  
Theology Professor

Rev Dr Stefano Corradi  
A/Pastor, General Theologian  
(Sydney, 2015-2020)

Nathan Tyson  
Pastor of First Peoples, Spiritual  
and Engagement  
USA 1990-2007

ORGANISED BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN AUSTRALIA, SYDNEY UNITING CHURCH, AND PITT STREET UNITING CHURCH

5th July SUNDAY 1:30-4:30  
Pitt St Uniting Church  
REGISTER @ [HTTPS://BIT.LY/AAARFSD](https://bit.ly/AAARFSD)

## ▪ 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

While we may wish the rules were different, there are a few time-tested Truths about growing and maturing. They take work. And they also involve patience, persistence, and sacrifice.

No Olympic champion ever won gold by eating a diet of candy bars and taking naps every day. To attain a high level of achievement, hard work is not optional.

Our walk with God is no different. In order to be the type of Christians who truly personify the hands and feet of Christ in every aspect of our lives, we must work hard.

The apostle Paul explained why he insisted on being a disciplined Christian:

Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air.

No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize. (1 Corinthians 9:26-27)

When we are not stretching ourselves, when we are not growing, we are stagnating spiritually. We miss out on God's best for us at that moment. To obey God at every turn is to honour Him to the fullest. But it's not easy.

Making the conscious decision to disobey God shows how prideful we really are. Conversely, deciding to obey God exemplifies a spirit of true humility: "Humility is the fear of the LORD; its wages are riches and honour and life" (Proverbs 22:4). When we trust God and submit to His will for our lives, we can be confident that He will exalt us in His timing: "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:6-7).

Even though we may think God's plan looks impossible, through faith and trust in Him, we will arrive at the conclusion that He indeed knows best. And when we are walking with God, certain His every move is for our best, we will grow to heights only God knew we could reach.

*Prayer: Lord, help me resist the temptation to do what looks easiest and instead always obey Your voice. Strengthen me that I may fulfill Your work. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

**"Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me" (Matthew 10:38).**

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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 JNC, for wisdom in discernment, unity, patience and guidance, to bring clarity to the process of calling a minister to our church.
- 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 the people of Venezuela as they continue to deal with the aftermath of the devastating earthquake.
- 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 Kenya, Tanzania.

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### Prayers

**E - give** (Anonymous Direct Electronic Giving)

**Account Name:** North Rocks CC - Giving  
**(BSB):** 634634 **Account Number:** 100025906

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