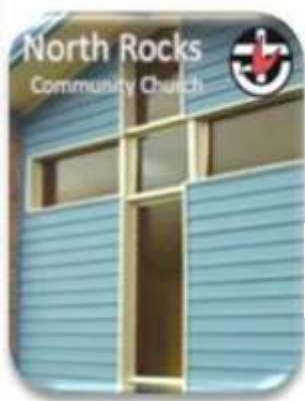




NEWSLETTER

13 - 19 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 week 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. We are also looking for table hosts. 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 August to October is currently being prepared. If you know you will be away at any time please email enquiry@northrocks.org.au. If you wish to change your commitment to the roster in any way please email or talk to Cathy.

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

Bearing Witness: Palestinian Christian Voices Speaking Tour

What does it mean to stand in solidarity, pursue justice, and work towards peace in the Holy Land?

Parramatta Community Uniting Church will host an evening with Dr Yousef Al-Khoury, the Dean of Bethlehem Bible College as part of a national speaking tour sponsored by Palestinian Christians in Australia (PCiA) and the NCCA.

This is an opportunity to listen, learn, ask questions, and engage with the voices of Palestinian Christians.

Tuesday, 28 July 2026, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Leigh Memorial (PCUC), 119 Macquarie Street, Parramatta NSW

\$20 per person. Click [here](#) to book your ticket.

Bearing Witness.
PALESTINIAN CHRISTIAN VOICES
How can Christians support a just peace in the Holy Land?

FEATURING
Dr. Yousef Khoury
Palestinian Christian theologian raised in Gaza, where his family remains. Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies and Academic Dean at Bethlehem Bible College; member of the steering committee of Christ at the Checkpoint and the board of Kairos Palestine.

Event Details
Tue 28 July 2026
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM (UTC+10)
Leigh Memorial (PCUC)
119 Macquarie Street,
Parramatta, NSW 2150
Tickets: \$20/ticket

For Tour Info and Tickets, visit:
<https://tinyurl.com/9r570e4>

AUSTRALIA TOUR 28 JUL - 3 AUG 2026 | SYD - CANB - MELB - BRIS - PER

▪ 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

There are times when God withholds something from us that shakes our confidence in Him. Is there something that He has withheld from you—a relationship, a job, or a material possession?

Only He knows why the answer to your prayers has not yet been given. Seek Him and wait for Him to reveal His will for you. Know that He is a loving Father who is working out everything for your ultimate good and His glory. Our heavenly Father knows what we need—even better than we do.

There are also times when we withhold from God. While God withholds for our good, when we withhold from God, it harms us. It creates the perfect condition for worry and anxiety. This is why Jesus exhorted us: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven" (Matthew 6:19-20a).

God has provided the solution for anxiety and worry: You are to trust Him and use the possessions and gifts He gives you for His glory.

You may not think you can turn away from feelings of worry, doubt, and anxiety, but you can! You are more than a conqueror through the love of Christ Jesus (see Romans 8:37). When you know and love God and have accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you have the assurance of eternal victory. Paul encourages us with the victory that is now and yet to come:

For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." . . . thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:52-54, 57)

Don't be anxious about life. If you are lacking anything, seek first God's Kingdom and His righteousness, and He will meet all your needs in Christ Jesus (see Matthew 6:33 and Philippians 4:19).

Prayer: God, help me to trust You even when it seems You are withholding something from me. May I not withhold anything from You. Help me to turn away from worry and anxiety today. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own" (Matthew 6:33-34).

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 nation of Tuvalu. May we as a Church be led to act, to advocate and to stand alongside our global neighbours.
- [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 Eritrea, Ethiopia

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

Church Council

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