



NEWSLETTER

20 - 26 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 this Saturday. Please invite your friends to come along for a fun evening. The [event](#) is on Facebook to share.

All money raised will be donated to Parramatta Mission

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


Parramatta Mission


IN-KIND DONATIONS

Help make a difference to those in need.

Each weekday day, over 300 people come to Meats Plus. We provide meals, emergency food parcels, showers, and actions to support services for people experiencing homelessness, domestic violence, mental health challenges, and more. We believe everyone deserves to be seen, supported, and given a chance at a transformed life.

Your donation of these everyday items goes directly to someone in need.

Food items - Long life milk - Instant soups - Instant noodles - Pre-cut & sealed - Pasta & sauce - Flour - Canned & shelf-stable - Grains, cereals & sugar	Toiletry items - Soap - Toiletries - Toothbrush & toothpaste - Small shampoo - Small conditioner - Body wash - Deodorant
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Socks & underwear

- New socks (all sizes)
- New underwear (all sizes and styles)

QR Code

Prefer to give online? You can still help

Scan the QR code or follow the link <https://www.parramattamission.org.au/donate> to make a secure online donation and directly support our work. Every gift, large or small, makes a real difference.

For partnership opportunities, email fundraising@parramattamission.org.au

A Community Transforming Lives

Parramatta Mission

One Heart For The West

National Homelessness Week 13-19 August 2026

One Action. One Item. One Community.

- Donate an essential item such as non-perishable food or personal care products
- Organise an essential item drive with your workplace, school, church, club or community group
- Support through workplace giving via your employer's giving program

QR Code

Scan the QR code to discover Homelessness Week events and find the action you can take today.

To get your organisation involved, register your service for our community hub day or for further information contact: fundraising@parramattamission.org.au

Parramatta Mission

Homelessness Week 2026

KEY EVENTS

August 2nd **HOMELESSNESS WEEK LAUNCH**
 Street Level Community Church and Blain Roadside Inn, Canterbury Square Parramatta
 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

August 5th **PARRAMATTA COMMUNITY HUB**
 Parramatta Mission 118 Macquarie Street Parramatta
 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

August 6th **MEALS PLUS REMEMBRANCE SERVICE**
 Parramatta Mission 118 Macquarie Street Parramatta
 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE TO ATTEND



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

Doesn't it seem that our fiercest battles occur while trying to accomplish great things for God? Do not be discouraged—no one has ever accomplished God's vision for his or her life without facing discouragement, hindrances, and difficulties. But if it is truly God's vision for your life—and not your own personal ambitions or dreams—then God will give you whatever you need to work through those obstacles.

God had a vision for the apostle Paul's life, and He communicated this vision through a man named Ananias: "But the Lord said to Ananias, 'Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel'" (Acts 9:15).

But Paul didn't go straight from the road to Damascus to the palaces of kings. It wasn't until Acts 26 that Paul's life-vision was completely fulfilled as he stood before King Agrippa. And in between those many years, he faced more obstacles and discouragements than most of us will ever face in a lifetime. Paul experienced imprisonment, beatings, starvation, insults, and hardships—all for the sake of Christ (see 2 Corinthians 11:22-28).

What motivated Paul when everything around him seemed to be against him? The power of his God-given vision. Having God's vision for our lives will keep us moving forward, but without it, we easily lose hope and give up. We must remember God's call on our lives to be His people (see 1 Peter 2:9-10), to serve as His temple on earth (see 1 Corinthians 3:16), to be "the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing" (2 Corinthians 2:15).

We may never share the Gospel with kings, but God has a vision for our lives, just as He did for Paul. When you feel too insignificant to make a difference, remember that you are a child of the King.

Prayer: God, help me not to be discouraged when I am faced with obstacles to the vision You have given me. Help me to remember that it is Your vision and that You will give me everything I need to fulfill it. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9).

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 Djibouti, Somalia

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