



NEWSLETTER

11 March 2021

Revive
Restore
Reach Out

NRCC News and Notices

▪ **COVID-19 rules:** Group singing is allowed with masks on. Please bring your own mask if you want to join our singing.

▪ **We are having a “Thanksgiving Service” on Easter Sunday 4/4**

Government Covid support finishes at the end of March'21 and our cash flow forecast shows we will be in a deficit of \$13000 at the end of June'21. We are really thankful for the way God has provided during the past year with all the difficulties we have gone through.

Could you prayerfully consider giving up something during Lent and donating the amount at the Thanksgiving service on Easter Sunday. You may also consider giving a one-off thanksgiving offering. Some may be able to give more or some less, or some unable to give at all. Give as the Lord leads. You could either give through putting your gift in an envelope in the offering bag at the door or by direct giving.

Account Name: North Rocks Community Church

BSB:634634

Account Number: 100016305

with 'Thanksgiving' as a reference.

Blessings

Anne (Treasurer)

A flyer for Easter Thanksgiving Sunday, 4th April 2021. The background features a pie, fruit, and a branch with leaves. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white box.

EASTER Thanksgiving Sunday
4th April 2021

“Let us come before Him with thanksgiving” (Ps. 95:2)

We are going to bring our special thanksgiving offering to God for the Lord's faithfulness over the past challenging year and for what He has in store for us and for our church.

Please use the envelopes provided or E-Giving
Account Name: North Rocks Community Church
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▪ **Playgroup meeting on Mar 23, 7.30 PM**

At the Vision Day in 2020 it was decided to start exploring options for a Playgroup here at North Rocks Church. We will be having a meeting on Tuesday March 23rd, 7.30pm here in the Church, to start conversations about options. Please contact enquiry@northrocks.org.au for more information.

▪ **The Hammonds are back in Australia.** Congratulations on their wonderful mission work in Malawi for many years. They will be able to meet with us sometime after Easter. Welcome home! You can read their latest newsletter [here](#).

▪ **UCA President Dr Deidre Palmer's message on International Women's Day can be found [here](#).**

▪ **Guest preacher on 21st March:** Richard & Lindsey Parker will be sharing God's message for us. Thanks!

▪ **Join with us this Easter: Good Friday** (2nd April 9 AM), **Easter Sunday** (4th April 9 AM). More info will be provided.

Dates for your Diary

▪ **Thursday Evening Prayer @ 7.30 PM on ZOOM:** If you feel led by the Spirit of the Lord to uphold our church community in prayer with other fellow sisters and brothers, please come and join us. Please contact enquiry@northrocks.org.au for more information.

Community News and Notices

▪ **Stations of the Cross Exhibition**



Stations of the Cross 2021

You are invited to enter a different space and come together as spiritual leaders to prepare for this special event in the church's year and support each other as we grow together.

Thursday 25th March, 2021
10am - 3pm
Northmead High School

Cost: \$15 cost includes lunch and refreshments

Retreat led by the Moderator, Rev. Simon Hansford.

RSVP: 15th March 2021
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/stations-of-the-cross-2021-tickets-139571695699>

For further information, contact Gretzel Mandingado:
gretzelm@nswact.uca.org.au

 **Uniting Church**
SYNOD OF NSW & ACT

www.stationsofthecross.net.au



2020 Station 15 - Resurrection - Euan Macleod, Pigman (two heads)

Reflection of the Week

Sometimes we shy away from growing spiritually because we know that growth is often accompanied by pain. We want to run from our troubles rather than press forward. But the Bible tells us, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything" (James 1:2-4).

Joy does not mean that we will not experience pain, sadness, or frustration when everything seems to go wrong. But unlike worldly happiness, joy can be found in the midst of suffering.

Paul was no stranger to experiencing hardships. He endured harsh criticism, prison, and near-death situations. He was not always happy, but he found the secret to maintaining his joy: He remained focused on Christ instead of his circumstances. After speaking in Jerusalem and causing so much chaos that the Roman commander had to house him in the barracks for his protection, the Lord personally came and stood by Paul and said to him, "Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome" (Acts 23:11).

If you're going through a hard time, if you are tempted to give up on God, if you are wondering if your rope is about to break, if you are questioning whether God has forgotten you, remember that God's words to Paul are meant for you, too.

Even when it seems God is silent, He is yet working things out for your good and His glory. God is the master of your circumstances, and He's using all of them to weave His purpose in your life, even now.

When Paul trusted the sovereign hand of God, he learned to be content in the ups and downs, in the abundance and the lack, in sickness and in health, in the courts of kings and in the dungeons and prisons. Whatever God called Paul to do—whether speaking with the powerful or the poor—Paul knew that God would equip him for his tasks. And his Christ-centered focus brought joy and contentment to his life.

What hardship are you enduring right now? Look up; the God of all creation loves you and is working all things for your good and His glory. Let the joy of that knowledge fill your heart with praise and peace.

Prayer: Lord, may I find comfort in You and Your sovereignty as You place me in situations that test and grow my faith. By Your Spirit, lift my eyes to You, the source of all joy. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:12-13).

e-give (Direct Electronic Giving)

Account Name: North Rocks Community Church
(BSB): 634634 **Account Number:** 100025906

Prayer Chain

Our church has a “chain” of people committed & ready to pray & bound to confidentiality. Please contact Felicity, Dawn or Church office.

Ministry Leaders

Minister: Rev. Steve Lee / minister@northrocks.org.au / 0433 698 690

Youth Coordinator: Catherine Nelson / youth@northrocks.org.au / 0411 055 403

Church Council:

Chairperson: Craig Marshall Secretary: Jenny Keyte Treasurer: Anne Crabb

North Rocks Community Church

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