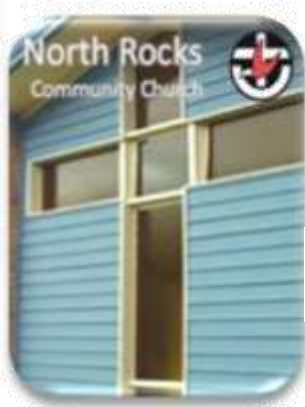




NEWSLETTER

21 – 27 September 2026



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.



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

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

September	
26	Community Garden
October	
10	Community Garden
18	National Christian Life Survey
24	Community Garden
November	
21	Women's Morning Tea
December	
5	Fair Trade Market

Community News and Notices

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

Keep the Faith

Read 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12.

The believers in Thessalonica faced persecution daily. Some endured physical attack, many lost their jobs, and others had their property destroyed. Some even faced imprisonment or worse. But in spite of their great suffering, they did not lose hope. That is why the apostle Paul could encourage them, "We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters" (2 Thessalonians 1:3).

Paul had faced his own share of persecution and hardship, so he recognized the beauty of the Thessalonians' faith. He could see they were looking up when others in their situation would have been cast down. The difference, of course, is Jesus. He brings light into darkness, comfort in times of pain, hope in seasons of despair.

We are never more like Christ than when we are looking up to God in hope. That is true Christlikeness. This is how we not only survive but thrive when others are looking down at earth in despair as the world falls apart. God is the one who empowers us to fix our eyes on Him. He gives us the supernatural ability to persevere, even soar, when we have no strength and all hope is gone.

This kind of faith doesn't come from denying the reality of sin and evil. The Bible never pretends evil is not real, nor does it minimize pain and suffering. Instead, the Bible declares that things will not always be the way they are right now. When Jesus returns, He will transform the world. Here and now, Christ's glory is concealed, His children are falsely accused, and His righteous power is hidden from the world. But one day, maybe sooner than we think, the Truth will be fully revealed, and all things will be made new.

The Thessalonians knew that, and it sustained them in dark times. As we edge closer to the end of history, make sure you too are lifting your eyes to heaven. Put your trust in Jesus. Faith in Him is the only thing that will sustain you when hardship comes.

Prayer: Lord, help me to lift my eyes to You when my days are dark. I know You will give me all the strength I need to persevere in hope. Grant me Your nearness when my heart faints, that I might have peace that transcends understanding because of Your great love. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring" (2 Thessalonians 1:4).

Prayer Points for This Month

For Our Church

- Pray for our congregation as we discern God's plan for our church.
- 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 Brett (Glen H's son), Bob (Radha's husband), Dawn, Andrew, Cay, George, Mari, Glen H, Christine, Stan, Samson & Gloria's family, Margaret B, Maureen.

For the Wider Church

- Pray for the churches of Parramatta Nepean, Murray Darling and Sydney presbyteries as they transition into the new Central Presbytery.
- Pray for community services organisations and missions associated with PNP.
- 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 Nepal following the flash floods.
- 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 Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay

E - give (Anonymous Direct Electronic Giving)

Account Name: North Rocks CC - Giving

(BSB): 634634 **Account Number:** 100025906

Ministry Leaders

Transitional Supply Minister: Rev Dr Rod Benson / 0412421678 / rod@northrocks.org.au

Church Council

Chairperson: Cathy Nelson Secretary: Samson Leung
Mike Hammond, Jenny Keyte, Quentin Napier, Sue Vasilevska