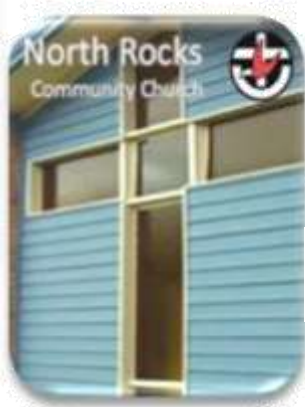




NEWSLETTER

5 - 11 October 2026



Sunday Worship 9am

Prayer for Our Church

Dear God,

Thank you for the many blessings you have given us, and for the opportunity to gather in fellowship, supporting and encouraging one another.

Surround with your love and comfort all those who are experiencing hardship, loneliness or illness. Help us to reach out to them with compassion, kindness and practical support.

We pray for wisdom and guidance for those serving on the JNC as they work together to discern the minister you have planned for our church. May they be guided by your Spirit and trust in your leading.

Amen.



Every five years the National Church Life Survey is held in churches in over 20 denominations. The last survey was held during COVID and only a very small number of our members took part. We are hoping to have the majority of the congregation take part this year to give us an overview of our church and to help us plan for the future.

Church council would like as many people as possible to complete the survey and has decided to spend time after the service on October 18. We will have the forms available on the day and they can be completed before or during morning tea. If you won't be at church that day please let Cathy know so alternative arrangements can be made for you to complete it.

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

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



Hosted and led by Gawura Cultural Immersions, learn more about local Aboriginal country, cultures and communities, including site visits, stories, and bush tucker at this Walking on Country event at Parramatta.

Date: Saturday, 14 November 2026

Time: 10am - 1:30pm

Location: Beginning at Centre for Ministry, [16 Masons Drive, North Parramatta](#)

Cost: Adults: \$80, Children/Candidates/Students \$50

Lunch included with registration

For more information visit: www.culturalimmersions.com.au

REGISTRATIONS CLOSES ON OCTOBER 23

<https://nswactuca.eventsair.com/.../registr.../Site/Register>

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

The Shepherd and the Lost Sheep

Read Luke 15:1-7.

In first-century Israel, tax collectors were on the bottom rung of the social ladder. Everyone hated them. That's because they cooperated with the Romans to levy high taxes on the people. They regularly took more than was necessary, robbing their neighbours. They were traitors to the nation. They were truly outcasts in society.

"Sinners" were in a similar situation. These were people of low moral character—prostitutes, criminals, and the like. The Pharisees considered such people a stain on the nation—people whose occupations were clearly incompatible with keeping God's Law. They believed these "sinners" were the reason God seemed to tarry in rescuing His chosen people from Roman occupation. Like tax collectors, these people were pushed out of polite society in every way possible.

Both groups—tax collectors and sinners—were lost. But Jesus "came to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10). So, of course, He spent time with them. He loved them. He drew them to Himself. He called them to leave their sin and follow Him. We might have assumed that when God came down to earth, He would seek out the good people and the morally upright, but the divine, holy Son of God sought out those who had no righteousness of their own, those who knew they could do nothing to save themselves.

Thus, as the Pharisees and scribes complained that He was hanging around the wrong sorts of people, Jesus told a parable. He said that if a shepherd had a hundred sheep and one went missing, he would leave the ninety-nine to go after the one lost sheep. Now, the shepherd wouldn't abandon the other sheep. Rather, with a flock that large, there would have been several shepherds, and it would have been the owner of the sheep who would have gone after the stray. Jesus is that Shepherd. He is the one who seeks out the lost sheep.

In the parable, the shepherd rejoices when he finds his lost sheep. God rejoices when the lost are found. God rejoices when a soul repents and receives healing. And so, too, should we. If we are Jesus' friends, we will be people who find joy in the things that bring Him joy.

Prayer: Jesus, thank You for being my Shepherd, for coming to seek and save me. I rejoice in Your tender care and love. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?" (Luke 15:4).

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 HSC students as they prepare for their final exams.
- Pray for healing and restoration for those in need.

For the Wider Church

- Pray for the churches and other organisations and missions of Parramatta Nepean, Murray Darling and Sydney presbyteries as they transition into the new Central Presbytery.
- 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 Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela

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