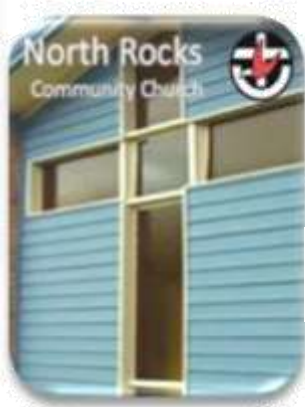




NEWSLETTER

17 - 23 August 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.



Farewell Val



Next Friday a funeral will be held for our beloved Val. The service will be held at the church on Friday 28 August at 11am. All welcome.

Cleaning Bee

This Saturday there will be a cleaning bee held at the church. If you can help please come along any time between 8am & 10am. We will not be doing any major work, but we would like it to be clean for upcoming events.

Lamington Drive

This Sunday is the final day for orders if you would like some lamingtons. Click [here](#) if you need an order form. Please note that the preferred payment option is direct deposit.

Account name: North Rocks Community Church

BSB: 634634 Account number: 100016305

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	
5	Lamington Drive
13	Congregational AGM
October	
18	National Christian Life Survey
December	
5	Fair Trade Market

Community News and Notices

A poster for the 'For Freedom Global Prayer Gathering'. At the top, it features the 'For Freedom' logo, the 'eSIM' logo, and the text 'Prevent Human Trafficking'. Below this is a photograph of a person's hands clasped in prayer, with a cross visible in the background. The text on the poster reads: 'For Freedom Global Prayer Gathering Tuesday 1 September, 7.30am & 10.30pm UTC. Come and be encouraged as we share how God has been answering prayers. Pray with us for the For Freedom network ministries we support and our global networking and advocacy work that is preventing human trafficking and exploitation around the world.'

You can register for one of the 2 time options (see details below) that suits you best. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. The day before the meeting we will send out the prayer guide which will be used during our time together.

For Freedom Global Prayer Gathering – East
When: Tuesday September 1, 2026 07:30 AM
Universal Time UTC (Sydney 5.30pm) [Check my time zone here](#)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/-kBpZn72S6iAzyo4H9kkCw>

For Freedom Global Prayer Gathering - West

When: Tuesday September 1, 2026 10:30 PM Universal Time UTC (Next day – 2nd Sept: Sydney 8.30am) [Check my time zone here](#)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/8YUCw1LIQpare59QJkYZwQ>

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 Word of God Is a Feast

Before Jesus began His public ministry, He went out into the wilderness for forty days and forty nights "to be tempted by the devil" (Matthew 4:1). That was His purpose—to face Satan's attacks head on. During those forty days, Jesus fasted. He didn't eat a thing. So, not surprisingly, He was hungry—and there was Satan, ready with the perfect temptation: "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread" (v. 3). And what was Jesus' response to such a test? He quoted Scripture: "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God" (v. 4; see also Deuteronomy 8:3).

I am telling you, on the authority of the Word of God, that the Word of God itself is the only food that will sustain you, nourish you spiritually, and encourage you every day. Just as our physical bodies need good, nutritious food to eat, so too, our spirits need spiritual food, which is the Word of God. If Jesus relied on Scripture for His strength, how much more should we?

The reason our culture, and much of the Church, is experiencing a spiritual famine today is because God's people are so malnourished. We work hard to provide daily food for our families, and that's wonderful and good. We work hard to stay healthy, and that's great. We work hard to educate our children. We work hard physically to thrive, and yet, when it comes to feeding our spirits, feeding our souls, we think we can survive on a few crumbs of Scripture here and there. No! How in the world can we go month after month without feeding our spirits on the Word of God? The Word of God is not just the only worthy food for your spirit; it's also the only power for living. The Bible is our daily bread, more precious than anything else we might crave. Let us eat and give thanks!

Prayer: Father, forgive me for neglecting Your Word. I know it is to my detriment because Your Word is life. Give me a deeper understanding of Your Word by Your Spirit, that I might grow in faith to the glory of Your name. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God"' (Matthew 4:4).

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 Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger

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 Treasurer: Anne Crabb
Alex Chow, Jenny Keyte, Sue Vasilevska