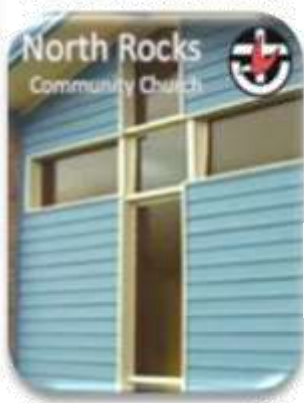




NEWSLETTER

19 - 25 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.



Guest Preacher

This Sunday we are welcoming back Richard Parker to share a bit about what they have been up to and to preach.

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	
24	Community Garden
27	Church Council Meeting
November	
14	Community Garden
21	Women's Morning Tea
28	Community Garden
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

Transformed by Christ

Paul's prayer for the Thessalonians—and for all believers—is that we would daily decrease so that Christ may daily increase in us. God is not satisfied with our partial sanctification. As Paul writes, God wishes us to be sanctified "through and through" (1 Thessalonians 5:23). Christ, living in us, must completely take over every part of our lives. We must come to a point where we can honestly say, "Not an inch of my life is withheld from the Lord's control. I am completely submitted to Him."

That's what Paul means when he says, "We take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5). Sanctification cannot begin on the outside. It must begin within us, at the level of our thoughts, then radiate outward to our actions. Sanctification is an inside job. It starts deep within the soul and spirit, and then it moves to the body.

Your spirit is the most distinct and individual part of you. It's the dimension of you that connects with the Holy Spirit when you come to Christ. When the Holy Spirit dwells in your spirit, then your body will respond in obedience.

The ancient Greeks thought that the body is evil but the soul is good. So they let their bodies be involved in all sorts of immorality. As long as they were thinking lofty thoughts, they could do whatever they wanted with their bodies. It's a compartmentalized way of thinking—and it's completely unbiblical.

The Scriptures present an integrated view of our humanity. Yes, there is a spirit dimension, a soul dimension, and a physical dimension to our being—but we don't compartmentalize these different parts of ourselves, and we don't dismiss one dimension as less important than any other. The Word of God teaches that our thoughts produce our actions and our body is no less important than our soul and spirit. In fact, the Scriptures tell us that the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

How do we become sanctified through and through? Is it a matter of human effort, willpower, and trying harder to be good? No. Righteousness comes from God alone. As Paul says, "The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it" (1 Thessalonians 5:24). Our job is to live in total dependence upon Him.

Prayer: Lord, help me to decrease so that Christ may increase in me. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it" (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24).

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 Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico

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