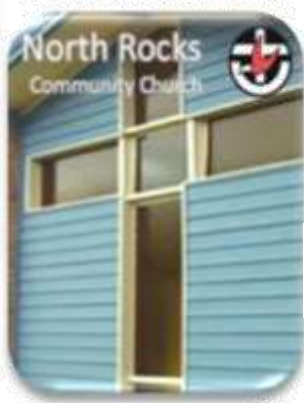




NEWSLETTER

26 October – 1 November 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.



Summary of Church Council Meeting

- Office bearers for the next 12 months are Chairperson - Cathy, Secretary - Jenny, Treasurer - Mike
- Afternoon in Song will be held on 20 March 2027
- We have given approval for Jacky to purchase two banners for the Fair Trade market.
- If you have a report or request for CC please email the secretary and chairperson by the Wednesday before the meeting to allow time for CC to prepare for the meeting.

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

Sometimes in his letters, Paul seems so strong and confident, so full of faith, that he appears to be a spiritual superhero. But Paul was as human as you and I. Cut him, and he bleeds. Slander him, and he feels the wound. Criticism and opposition always hurt. Yes, we can reach a stage of spiritual maturity where we are better able to manage our pain and forgive an injury, but only a person with ice water in his veins could say that criticism doesn't hurt.

Paul looked to the example of Jesus. He was comforted in knowing that his Lord and Savior, his role model, was constantly criticized and attacked. The Lord's enemies called Him a glutton, a drunkard, a lawbreaker, a blasphemer, a seditionist, and a demon-possessed madman. Evil always tries to portray good as evil and evil as good. Evil men always try to create confusion and divert attention from their wickedness.

One way evil people try to confuse the issue is by claiming that those who stand for Biblical morality, for God's Truth, for the Gospel of Jesus Christ, are guilty of that most vile of all sins, the sin of intolerance! If a Christian supports God's model for Christian marriage and the Christian family—one man and one woman raising children in the nurture of the Lord—that Christian will be labeled a bigot and be accused of intolerance. By supporting what is godly and good, a Christian will be demonized as a hater.

When Paul responds to criticism and opposition, he does not give in to anger or self-justification. His response is focused entirely on defending the Gospel itself. He reminds the Thessalonians of his love for them. He wants them to know that the Gospel he preached to them was delivered in love, not out of any selfish motive. If Paul's motives had been tainted, the Gospel he preached might have been tainted as well. Paul wanted the Thessalonians to know that the Gospel they received from him was pure and trustworthy.

When you are criticized for your faith in God's Word, for your trust in Jesus Christ, for your belief in the Gospel, look to Jesus. Remember His love and compassion and also His unwavering commitment to the will of the Father.

Prayer: God, help me to trust in You when I am criticized and maligned for my faith. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:44-45a).

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 The Caribbean

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: Jenny Keyte Treasurer: Mike Hammond
 Samson Leung Quentin Napier, Sue Vasilevska