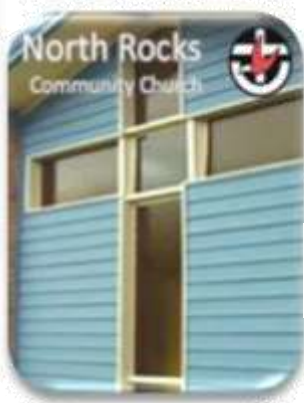




# NEWSLETTER

14 -20 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/>

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## 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              |

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## **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/>

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## **Reflection of the Week**

### **The God Who Encourages Us**

#### **Read Haggai 2:4-9.**

In trying times, God wants us to stay strong. This was the message He brought to His people through the prophet Haggai. The year was 520 BC, and many Jewish people had just returned to Judea from exile. The people were busy rebuilding their homes and the temple of God. And then, suddenly, their world changed. Opposition from outside the community threatened their progress, and the people became discouraged. The temple construction stopped. God's people were filled with uncertainty and apprehension.

It was then that God gave a message to the prophet Haggai: "'But now be strong, Zerubbabel,' declares the LORD. 'Be strong, Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land,' declares the LORD, 'and work. For I am with you,' declares the LORD Almighty" (2:4).

God knows what you've been through. He knows how you feel. He knows what you need. He doesn't gloss over what's happened. He doesn't sugarcoat your crisis or the problems you're going through. He simply says, "Be strong, for I am with you."

This is the secret to encouragement. When you feel alone, when you experience doubt, when you are struggling to trust, hear the voice of the Lord saying, "I am with you. Be strong, be courageous,

for I will surround you on all sides. I promise that I will be your strong tower in the day of battle. In the world you will have trouble, but take heart, I have overcome the world."

God told the people of Haggai's day, "I will shake all nations, and what is desired by all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory" (Haggai 2:7). Who is the one "desired by all nations"? It is Jesus, of course. And what is "this house"? From the New Testament's perspective, God's house is the church. Believers are a temple of the Holy Spirit (see 2 Corinthians 6:16). It is we who have been filled with His glory. His presence is with us day and night, through thick and thin. We can be strong, no matter what, because He will not leave us nor forsake us (see Hebrews 13:5).

*Prayer: Lord, thank You that You are with me. This Truth sustains and encourages me. I will rest in Your presence whatever my situation. You are my strong tower. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

**"Be strong, all you people of the land,' declares the LORD, 'and work. For I am with you,' declares the LORD Almighty" (Haggai 2:4).**

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## **Prayer Points for This Month**

### **For Our Church**

- Pray for each of us as we find ways to "Practise the Way".
- 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.
- Pray for comfort and strength for those who have lost loved ones.

### **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 Ghana, Nigeria

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**E - give** (Anonymous Direct Electronic Giving)

**Account Name:** North Rocks CC - Giving

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

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### Ministry Leaders

Transitional Supply Minister: Rev Dr Rod Benson / 0412421678 / [rod@northrocks.org.au](mailto:rod@northrocks.org.au)

### Church Council

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