



**8 SEPTEMBER 2024**

## Welcome

Welcome to church this morning, we hope you enjoy being with us.

## Lectionary readings

**This week 8 September, 2024**

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23  
Psalm 125  
James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17  
Mark 7:24-37

**Next Sunday 15 September, 2024**

Proverbs 1:20-33  
Psalm 19  
James 3:1-12  
Mark 8:27-38

## Local Council Elections

Just a reminder that Local Council Elections are on next Saturday 14 September so don't forget to vote.



**NORTH ROCKS COMMUNITY CHURCH**

## FAIR TRADE MARKET

**SATURDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2024**

**9am - 2pm**  
132 North Rocks Rd, North Rocks  
**FREE ENTRY**

*Choose to buy fair trade products to help create a brighter future for millions of farmers, workers, and their families in developing countries.*

*Why not give fair trade gifts for Christmas this year which will give joy to both producer and receiver!*

- \* Jewellery
- \* Fashion
- \* Homewares
- \* Bags
- \* Toys
- \* Body care
- \* Fairtrade food products



Morning tea, Delicious Cakes & Sausage  
Sizzle also available

**NORTH ROCKS COMMUNITY CHURCH**

T. (02) 9683 2586

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North Rocks Community Church

Website. [northrocks.uca.org.au](http://northrocks.uca.org.au)



### **Greystanes Uniting Church**

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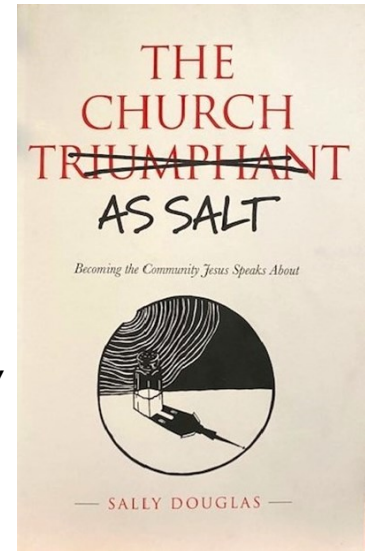
Email: office@greystanesuniting.org.au

Website: www.greystanesuniting.org.au

## **The Church as Salt**

During the month of September we will focus on one of Jesus' sayings, "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot." (Matthew 5:13)

I will be using Rev. Sally Douglas' recent book *The Church as Salt* as background material so that we can continue to become 'the Community Jesus Speaks About.' Sally's book is not a 'how to' manual for church success. It does not offer strategies or programmes on how we can grow numerically, in fact Sally points out that the desire to big, popular and powerful is much more akin to the way of the world than to the kingdom Jesus speaks about.



Jesus likens the kingdom to small things, salt, yeast, a mustard seed, a pearl and a lost coin. Jesus proclaimed that the kingdom belongs to the poor in spirit, the meek, the nonviolent and those who have the innocence, powerlessness and openness of a child.

Sally contrasts all these things to rise as the church as triumphant from around the year 400 AD. The church became an empire with just as many ambitions as any modern day mogul, amassing wealth, and dominating all spheres of society. Sadly much of this was done through acts of injustice and violence. That all sounds very depressing, so let me lift your spirits a little.

This is the perfect time in church history to "unravel assumptions about church and seek to genuinely engage with the question of what the marks of Christian faithfulness and growth might actually be." (Douglas, 17)

At the end of the month on Sunday September 29<sup>th</sup> we will have another breakfast service in which we will try to answer Sally's question: What are the marks of Christian faithfulness and growth?

Get your thinking caps on and may the Holy Spirit guide your discernment.  
Rev Gail