Roseville New Church, 4, Shirley Road, Roseville, NSW 2069

CHURCH BULLETIN FOR NOVEMBER 2026

Each Church Bulletin will come out online or get to you posted before the end of the previous month. If anything is to go into the next one, it needs to be with me by the previous 25th, please. Feel free to contact me on 0427 938 732 or julian@duckworth.me Thanks, Julian

Minister's Message

I would describe the current weather pattern as an "El No No" as it stands in great contrast to what was predicted to be happening this spring – a hot dry spring due to a record "El Niño". It has been nothing of the kind, at least on our side of Australia. We had 172 ml yesterday.

I remember a book I had quite a few years ago which I no longer have. It was called "Listening to the Language of the Bible – hearing it through Jesus' ears". It had about 60 illustrated short articles on key bible words like 'gate', 'journey', 'host' and so on, all of which were headed with their Hebrew word. The point was often made and shown that the Bible use of a word is to be understood personally rather than just factually. I like that. I mention this book because one article was about "Rain" or rather "Geshem", which, in a particularly dry part of the world, becomes a real cause for celebration when it happens … and a Godsend.

The Middle East (always in the news…) today depends so much on desalination. Seawater converted to slightly salty drinking water. Back in Bible days it would be a life-saver if rain fell where you and your crops are. So the Bible use of "rain" was always felt as the blessing of God on us. This is its personal meaning. Jesus talked about the rain, saying, "He sends the sun to shine on the evil and the good, he sends his rain on the just and the unjust." This reminds us that God does not handpick or favouritise some but not others, but contacts every one of us with qualities which sow heaven for us to then embrace.

The sun is an amazing symbol of God being everywhere with light/truth and warmth/love. It's about the best picture we have. The rain is a bit different… it rains here but not there. It rains now but it didn't then. Our sense of being blessed is often quite specific: "I feel blessed because…" "I feel blessed by this…" And as we know, rain is not an upended bucket but a gentle widespread wetting with tiny droplets.

Blessings are felt gently. "Every drop is precious" – every gift of God is gracious.

May it rain softly wherever you are,

Julian

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News about our next minister Rachel

The church committee have been working towards what are needed for Rachel to come next year. These are the contract and the visa, vital first requirements.

Both of them are extensive and complex, each covering a lot of details. Just know that both are now in process and will develop over time and with consultation. Rachel will probably be coming from April and we are working carefully to help that happen. Rachel will be present in January at the retreat and she is also now receiving church information and updates from us. Do wish it all well, prayerfully.

Services
Julian will be taking the next service which is on Sunday, November 1st and will include the holy supper. There will be a service on Sunday, November 15th too.

December's services will be on Sunday 6th and Sunday 20th. The first one will be an advent service; the second one, led by Julian (Ruth present as well) , will be our Christmas service and celebration. Note that we will be having lunch in the church hall after the service. This will be provided but **we need to know if you are coming and joining us for lunch. Please let Liz Kemmis know by Thursday, December 10th, by either seeing her at church, emailing at admin@rosevillenewchurch.com.au or phone 0410 326 894.** This will be in the December Bulletin too.

News for November from the Swedenborg Centre
I can't believe it's already November again. Where does time go? Well, if you want to ponder question like that and similar, attend the Swedenborg Reading sessions and you might get an opportunity to think about it from a drone's perspective (high altitude viewpoint!). As we were reading True Christianity by Swedenborg last week he was explaining the nature and origin of space and time. Big stuff! Come and join in, there's a session each week.

See the website at https://swedenborg.com.au/ for event details, news and Zoom links to join events when each event begins. Here are the calendar events for November.

Swedenborg discussions: every Tuesday from 11am to 1pm. Bring your conversation topic or question about your spiritual path, struggle and life. We've explored some most fascinating topics recently (I have never found one of these sessions boring).
Swedenborg reading and exploration: every Wednesday from 10am to noon. Learn some amazing insights from Swedenborg's True Christianity (a.k.a. True Christian Religion).

Hoping your November is a month of joy and growth.
Joe Vandermeer, Swedenborg Centre

Roseville New Church Online Prayer Circle 🙏 🙏 🙏
Our ever-open circle of eleven people is prayer active for all people. If you want to ask for prayers for someone or yourself, please contact Ruth on 0408 101 250 or email her at ruth@duckworth.me