

February  
26

Sunday  
11:00



# ROSEVILLE NEW CHURCH

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**FEBRUARY  
2023**

“We are to love the goodness a person has inside. It is the  
goodness itself that is our neighbour.”  
(True Christianity 410)

## Directory

Society Minister

Rev. Howard Thompson

Officers

Secretary

Graham Hall

Treasurer

Joel Duckworth

Church Officer

Debra Barratt Thompson

### **Sunday Service -**

**The Roseville New Church** holds a regular service of worship each Sunday at 10:00am. The first Sunday of each month includes an opportunity to partake of the Holy Supper.

### **Sunday Social Hour -**

After every service we have tea and coffee, an opportunity to meet socially, sometimes more formally.

### **The Angel Service - SUSPENDED**

The Angel Service is an informal service that invites participants to reflect on the active role the spiritual world plays in our physical lives. The service involves reflection, discussion, sometimes a brief talk and always concludes with prayer.

The Angel Service is held each month on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays at 5 p.m.

### **Calendar - *Included***

### **The Swedenborg Centre -**

The Centre is generously supported by the Sydney Society of the New Church and provides an independent and relaxing place to meet and discuss a personal approach to finding spiritual meaning. The Centre has a wide range of study materials, Swedenborg's works, and books by supporting authors. The Centre and its director Joe Vandermeer can be reached on phone (02) 9416 2812 or email [info@swedenborg.com.au](mailto:info@swedenborg.com.au) Opening hours are Monday to Friday 9.30am to 4.30pm. More events details at [www.swedenborg.com.au](http://www.swedenborg.com.au) The Centre can also be used to answer enquiries about the New Church, its literature and its teachings.

# Roseville New Church Newsletter

Issued by the Sydney Society of the New Church Established in 1875  
4 Shirley Road, Roseville, N.S.W. 2069  
Church Office phone: (02) 9416 7026  
Minister's e-mail : [revhathompson@gmail.com](mailto:revhathompson@gmail.com)  
On Facebook – Roseville New Church

## February 2023

The Faith of the New Church is summarised as follows:

There is one God in whom is the Divine Trinity. He is the Lord God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Saving faith is to believe in Him. Evil actions are not to be done because they are from hell and of hell. Good actions are to be done because they are from God and of God. These are to be done by a person as though they are done by himself, while believing that they are from the Lord working in him and through him.

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### Online Worship Reminder

A reminder that our minister, Rev. Howard Thompson, posts a weekly video on his YouTube channel, Spiritual Shorts. These videos (usually 10-15 minutes long) focus on one key aspect of the week's message and are intended to support home worship with prayer, links to hymns, opening of the Word, lessons and a brief talk.



Spiritual Shorts YouTube Channel:  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/  
UCsrICJGeGmrnXVawn\\_Y7UQA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsrICJGeGmrnXVawn_Y7UQA)

**Sydney Society of the New Church**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**26 February 2023 - 11:00am**

The Sydney Society of the New Church (Roseville New Church) will hold its Annual General Meeting on Sunday 26 February at 11:00am. The meeting will be held in the church sanctuary immediately following the 10:00am Service. All members are encouraged to attend.

Remote attendance via Zoom is available, please email Howard ([revhathompson@gmail.com](mailto:revhathompson@gmail.com)) for a link.



*Church Committee*

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**June Tayler**  
**1 June 1947 - 11 January 2023**

It is with sadness that we learned of the passing into the spiritual world of our friend June Tayler last month. Though June and Allan moved their family to Ingleburn, NSW many years ago, they still considered Roseville their church. A service for June was held on 24 January in Leppington, NSW.

Minister's Address delivered at June's service by  
Rev. Howard A. Thompson



Charles Horton Cooley, an early 20th century American sociologist, said: “I am not who you think I am; I am not who I think I am; I am who I think you think I am.”

There is an important relationship lesson in that statement (and I’ll let you ponder that on your own), but there is also an important lesson to be learned about why we are here.

We certainly are not here for June...

She is now in far more capable hands than ours...and there is no

magic series of words I can say or gestures I can make with my hands to ease her journey in the next life. We are not even really here for us...saying goodbye to a loved one is never easy, or pleasurable, but the time to say goodbye is certainly not after they are gone....Who are we here for? We are here for the June that lives in our hearts; the June we want to remember. More than remember, actually; The June we want to guide our thinking, our intentions and our actions in the future. In short, the June we want to carry with us forever.

Born in England in 1947, June was born into a world grappling with the aftermath of a devastating World War. The eldest of four children June’s full name was June Hartley (no middle-name), the family joke goes that they were too poor to give their children middle names. What the family lacked in material wealth, however, they more than made up for in Spiritual wealth.

The Lord says:

“Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.” (Matthew 6:19-21)

Of course the desires of June’s heart were not limited to Spiritual matters, but they certainly seem to be physical expressions of those spiritual treasures.

- June loves to travel, a love that seemed to express her love of the Lord’s creation and a love of the neighbour. A love which brought June to Australia where she met a fellow British expat, Allan Tayler.

- June loves nursing - June’s love of nursing was certainly a love of serving others - no one goes into nursing for the money, if they do, I suspect they don’t last long.

- June loves her charities; Zonta International and Girl Guides. Both charities June was involved in were focused on empowering women both locally and internationally.

- June loves her family - Wife, Mother and Grandmother to Zackary - Amelia - Finnegan - Edie. June, you will hear later, was the mortar that held the family together.

June’s life spanned a period in human history of extraordinary technological and medical advancement, of unprecedented political and cultural change and a period of unprecedented improvements in quality of life. All these advances, particularly those technological and cultural, seem to have happened concurrently with

an equally dramatic collapse in formal faith practices, particularly in western societies.

June's faith practice certainly never collapsed. Raised in a strong New Church tradition, June made the New Church her own as an adult. Upon her arrival in Australia she made certain to connect with the New Church Society in Sydney. Good thing she did, because that is where she met a fellow British expat named Allan. And, from my understanding, it didn't take long and marriage was in the offing. Though demands of her nursing career and distance from the nearest New Church congregation made it difficult to attend church frequently June still found a way to make faith a part of her's, Allan's, their children's and their grandchildren's lives. Of course, attending church regularly is a useful and good thing to do, but more important is taking what you learn from your faith and making that a part of your life and who you are.

A New Church minister and long-time friend of June's said this; "As a person there was absolutely nothing superficial about June. She didn't try to be who she wasn't. She was very content with who she knew herself to be. June was unfailingly pleasant, thoughtful of others, somewhat shy...but a good conversationalist, always an attentive listener, and never raised her voice....I personally came to regard June as one of life's "golden souls"; a person whose presence, contribution and sphere lifts the spirit of people who know them and walk life's journey with them. A "Golden Soul"...I think June certainly succeeded in making the teachings of her faith part of who she was.

In my role I have been with many people in the last days and sometimes moments of their physical lives. June had an aura of peace around her that is rare...and it brings to mind a favorite passage of hers:

Arcana Coelestia/Secrets of Heaven 4855

*Peace holds within itself trust in the Lord, the trust that He governs all things and provides all things, and that He leads towards an end that is good. When a person believes these things about the Lord they are at peace, since they fear nothing and no anxiety about things to come disturbs them. How far a person attains this state depends on how far they attain love to the Lord.*

The family has asked that I share some of the words they they have shared with me over the past few weeks.

Pauline wants to say that there are no words that need to be said to my mum. She knows how much love I have for her. How much I appreciated her. How much I valued her. She was my best friend...All I want to say is Thank you. Thank you for the nature, guidance and mentoring





and, most of all, thank you for Family. You are at the core of our family. You loved and cared for all of us. You have shaped each of us and become a part of us and we will hold you in our hearts for the rest of our lives.

Philip says - Mum, I respect you as a quiet teacher and leader. You positively changed the lives of many in practical, unassuming and empowering ways.... Through the way you lived your life and until the end, you taught me selflessness, kindness and putting other people first.... Your care and love for others has always quietly shone and without me knowing, it has shaped my values and what I contribute to the world.

From the words shared with me by Philip and Pauline, one word comes to mind; "Matriarch." There are a lot of mothers and grandmothers in this world, many of them very special to their children and grandchildren, but there are very few deserving of the title "Matriarch." If you've had one, you know it and you have been well blessed.

Rev. Howard A. Thompson

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### **Swedenborg Centre News**

The Centre is again fully open since the year began, and by the beginning of February all regular events will be in full swing while all children have returned to school.

Please check the website for the full events list at <https://swedenborg.com.au/> which will capture any details and possible last minute changes as well as any general news.

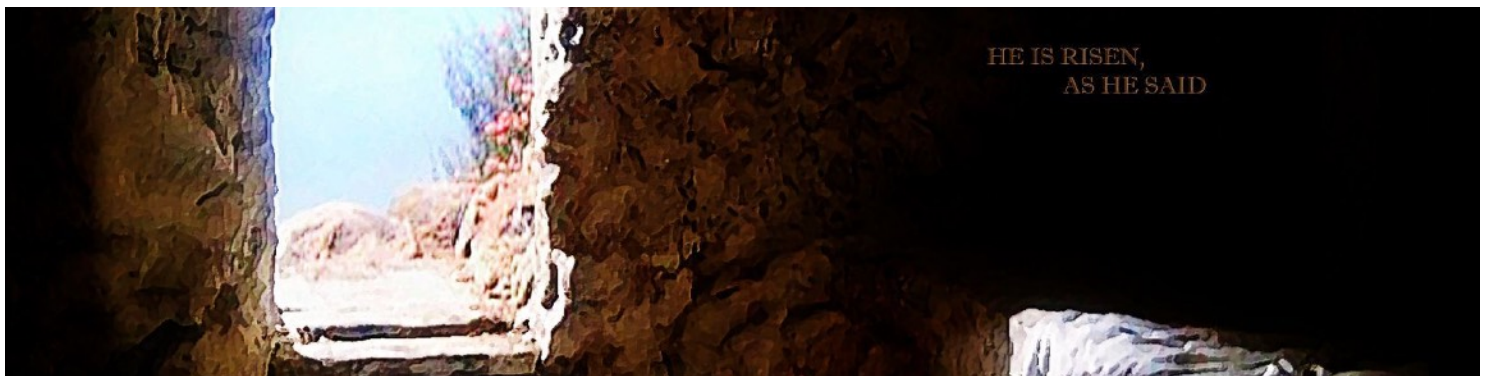
- Each Monday at 11am are **Fourth Way Readings with Swedenborg insights**. This is currently exploring Gurdjieff's allegorical stories in Beelzebub's Tales to His Grandson, which contains a lot of useful spiritual reflections and instructions that both parallel and supplement Swedenborg's writings, brought with humour. We find often that Swedenborg's writings cast further light on that material to render it useful.
- Tuesdays at 11am on February 7th and 21st we will have Howard here to help us **study The Word**.
- **Swedenborg Readings** are held each Wednesday at 10am – we are still exploring the amazing material about Divine Providence.
- **Dr Groves Readings** start at noon & 7pm, Friday February 3rd and 17th – currently exploring the work called Quest for Integration.
- **Swedenborg Saturdays** occur on February 4th & 18th, which aims to help us understand any topic and its application of the ideas contained in Swedenborg's writings.
- We have decided to no longer make special mention of what used to be the monthly **Second Tuesday Open Discussion** because most of our visitors already know that the invitation to openly discuss matters from our own spiritual lives can be done on any Tuesday (or on any other day of the week). Tuesdays have regularly become our most social open days of the week. But if Tuesdays don't suit you, why not drop in on another day or schedule a Zoom session at a time that suits you for some Swedenborg Centre interaction?

If dropping in for a casual cuppa and chat, it's a good idea to first check the website to see whether we're busy with an event (allow two hours to finish any of our events) or you might phone us on (02) 9416 2812 or email [joe@swedenborg.com.au](mailto:joe@swedenborg.com.au) to check for an appropriate time to visit.

We hope that you enjoy these invitations and offerings of activities.

Wishing you a very pleasant month.

Joe



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### **Inaugural Easter Readings**

Since arriving in Roseville in 2018 I have endeavoured to share with you the annual Christmas Readings produced by my colleague Rev. Mark Pendleton, Pastor of the Glenview New Church. Over the years I have enjoyed these Readings and appreciated the help they have given me in experiencing the Christmas Season on a deeper level. I have often thought similar readings could be produced around the Easter Story. Well, I am excited to share with you that our friends in

the General Church (based in Bryn Athyn, PA, USA) have developed a 6 week series of daily readings around the Easter Story.

Like the Christmas Readings, these readings are intended as an aid to your personal reflection on the story of the Lord's life, death, and resurrection. Each daily reading features a scriptural passage from the Easter story and commentary from New Church teachings, followed by some reflections and a question to consider. Readings will begin February 22nd and extend through Easter Sunday.

So far the Easter Readings are only available via email subscription. You can sign up at the following link; <https://newchurch.org/get-answers/holidays/easter/easter-daily-readings/>. Readings will begin February 22nd and extend through Easter Sunday (April 9).

Interested in group discussions about the Easter Readings? You can also join an online discussion group which will meet weekly during the Easter Season.

To discuss in greater detail this new offering please feel free to contact me (details on last page of the Newsletter).

Howard

## **Future Church Camp/Retreat Updates!**

When last we were able to gather for an NCIA Church Retreat it was January 2020 in Adelaide. Life, shall we say, has become quite 'complicated' since then hasn't it? Well, I thought I would update you on efforts to reestablish a New Church Camp/Retreat.

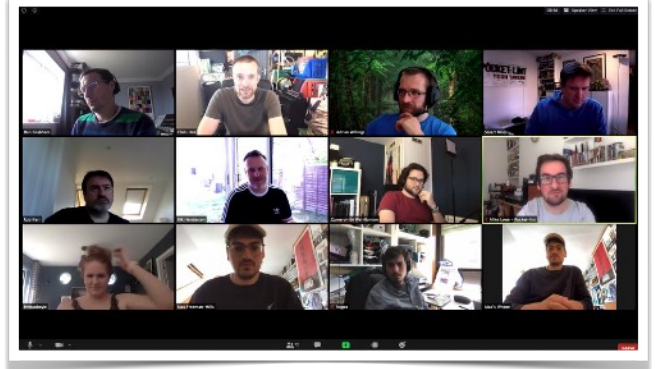
**2023 - Our Virtual Retreat** was held online **20-22**

**January.** Presentations were enjoyed interactively on Zoom and passively on the simultaneous YouTube live-

stream. We had engaging and thought-provoking presentations on subjects as diverse as Alien Influences on Swedenborg, Things to Love About Heaven, The 3 R's of Regeneration and the Rightness of Writing.

Recordings of the presentation, including opening and closing worship services should be available on the YouTube link previous shared. If you need help finding the link please let me know. I'll be happy to help.

Howard Thompson



Adelaide Retreat 2020

**2024** - I am still in discussion with venues over an actual retreat running **15-20 January 2024**. In my discussions this far out I am pleased to report that I do not believe we will be shut-out this time. Location for this retreat will likely be within a 90 minute drive from Sydney. More details to follow once finalised.

WATCH THIS SPACE

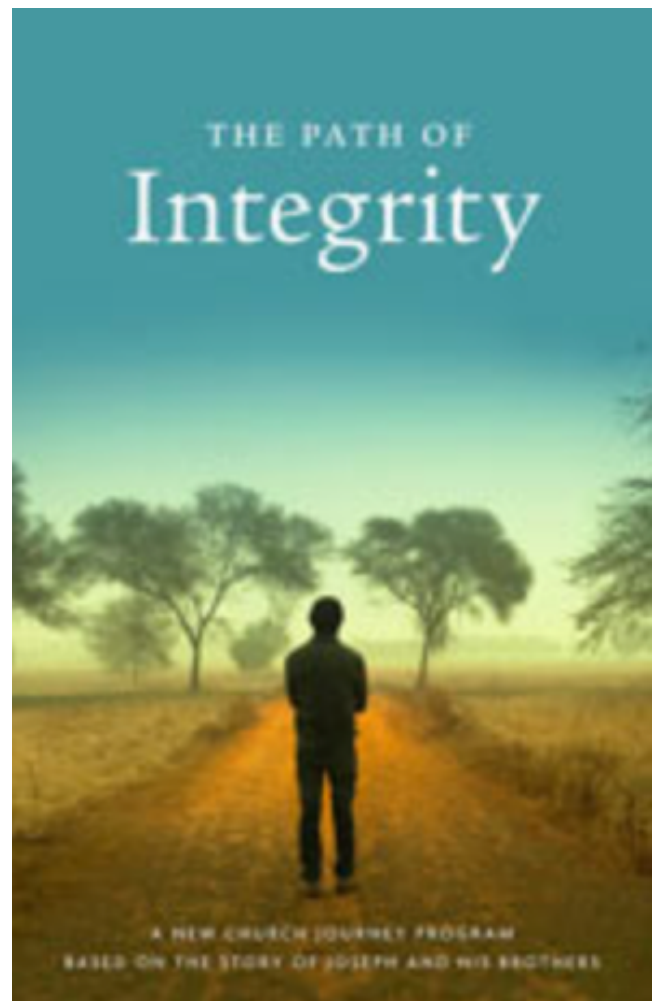
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## **2023 Sermon Series**

### **THE PATH OF INTEGRITY**

What kind of person do you want to be?  
Explore the story of Joseph, and learn to  
live in integrity with your higher calling.

Path of Integrity is a seven (7) week sermon series designed to assist you in applying God's teachings to your everyday life. In Path of Integrity, explore the Bible story of Joseph and his brothers, and discover the meaning it has for you on your own journey. The story of Joseph reminds us that even when our dreams have been thrown in a pit, that those dreams can be revived, and can show us the way to our own path of integrity. Series begins 5 February.



# February

2023

January							March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28	29	30	31	
29	30	31											

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	29	30	31		1	2	3
				Swedenborg Readings 10am			Swedenborg Saturday 10am - 12pm
5		6	7		8	9	10
		Sw4thWay R.G. 11.00	Bible Study 11.00	Swedenborg Readings 10am	Swedenborg Readings 10am	Minister's Personal Day	
12		13	14		15	16	17
		Sw4thWay R.G. 11.00		Swedenborg Readings 10am	Swedenborg Readings 10am	Minister's Personal Day	Swedenborg Saturday 10am - 12pm
19		20	21		22	23	24
		Sw4thWay R.G. 11.00	Bible Study 11.00	Swedenborg Readings 10am	Swedenborg Readings 10am	Minister's Personal Day	
26		27	28		1	2	3
							4
	10.00am Service of Worship Rev. Howard A. Thompson 11.00 SSNC AGM						



**ROSEVILLE  
NEW CHURCH**

## On A Lighter Note



### **Minister's Contact Information and Office Hours**

Rev. Howard A. Thompson  
Office Hours: 11:00 am - 4.00 pm  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

Email: [revhathompson@gmail.com](mailto:revhathompson@gmail.com)

Phone: 0432 357 475







