

Link



Pastoral Notes / Prayer Points

- ◆ *Pray for Florence Charger's family and the Napranum community during this difficult time since her passing*
- ◆ **New Safe Church Training** – there will be refresher training throughout Jan & Feb. Facilitators will be required to attend one of these sessions to get the new materials to use going forward (online and face to face sessions will be offered). Synod will contact each facilitator within Carpentaria directly
- ◆ **Combined Worship Service for the Northern Zone** is scheduled for 17th March at Edmonton UC – more info will be provided closer to date

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Prayer For The New Year

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the year that has passed and the many blessings You have showered us in time.

We beg your pardon in our many failings and trespasses and we pray that the coming year be a more fruitful one.

We earnestly pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit and we call upon our Lord Jesus Christ for His intercessions, His guidance and His light to shine our path.

Read the full prayer @ christiansst.com

Carpentaria News...

New Year Greetings from Garry

So 2024 is upon us!

Its been a rollicking start to the year with an early season cyclone, flooding and evacuations in the Cairns regions. For those in the Cairns region, the aftermath is still upon us and the developing monsoonal trough has reminded us what a wet-season really means in North Queensland.

While, I don't want to kick off the year with negativity or bad news, I would be remiss to not formally inform the Presbytery of the passing of Florence Charger from the Napranum congregation just after Christmas. Florence was a key member of both the Napranum and Mapoon communities. Her desire to serve the community, her church and her God has always been an inspiration for me. I actually first met Florence way back around 1990, even before I was a Christian and had numerous encounters with her in the secular and then the church world.

For me, Florence embodied what it means to be a christian in the world; focused on the Gospel love that impelled her community service. While a community and church mourns her passing, her legacy and inspiration amongst her people remains a constant witness to God's serving love, tolerance and forgiveness. Well done, good and faithful servant.

2024 is shaping up to be a year of change for our Presbytery and our Synod. With a new Moderator and new General Secretary, both of whom come into their roles with great experience and a strong commitment to the renewal of the church, I believe we will see some much needed governmental changes which will make a huge difference in how our Presbytery is funded and, subsequently, how the Presbytery can support, encourage and develop ministry in and through our congregations and chaplains.

These spaces are hard spaces, but I believe God has given us the right people for the job and they need all our support and prayers.

As I write this, Christy is in her last week of recovery from her knee replacement. I am looking forward to her being back on deck and feel that our Presbytery is currently extremely blessed with the current leadership we have within the Presbytery Leadership Team.

So let us begin 2024 in a attitude of prayer. Please join with me in the following prayer.

***Lord of sunshine and rain,
of hope and crippling pain,
of city and coast and outback plain,
we acknowledge your Lordship over all things.***

***For it is You, O Lord,
who brings into being all things.
It is You and You alone who builds Your church
And raises servants to Your Gospel.***

***And so we turn to you Lord and pray for
Rev Bruce Moore, our moderator,
Rev Dr Adam McIntosh, our General Secretary.
Give them the strength and conviction of Your Grace
To be a renewing spirit in the life our Synod.***

*We pray for our Presbytery Leadership.
For Christy and Garry, our Presbytery Ministers,
For Ana, our executive Assistant
Robyn, our Administrator.
And Akosita, our Secretary.
May Your Spirit guide them, uphold them
And equip them in the leadership
And work they do together.*

*We pray for our Zone Chairs,
Michelle Cullen (Southern Zone)
Netani Bolatolu (Northern Zone)
Tevita Niurua (Calvary Zone)
And Craig Mischewski (Cape/Gulf Zone)
May they have the wisdom and knowledge
of the church in the far flung places of this Presbytery
and bring their knowledge and servant hearts
to the leadership we have entrusted in them.*

*We pray for our chaplains,
In the defence, in police,
in aged care and hospitals
As they continue to walk alongside those
who either serve our community or
seek comfort in Your presence.*

*We pray for our Bush Chaplains
and the work they do in the harshest
and remotest parts of our land.
Bear them up in hope, in strength,
and forever be their compass that they may
never loose the way.*

*Finally, we pray for all our
congregational ministers,
they they may all seek to be followers
before they seek leadership.
We pray for our congregations
For the good men and women who serve you every day
Sometimes in full view,
but often in the background.*

*For we Lord, all seek You.
We long for your direction.
And we long for Your peace.
That together we may indeed
be the body of Christ and be beacons of light
in a dark and uncertain world.*

*We pray this in Your loving name.
Amen*

Happy New Year everyone!

*Blessings and peace
Garry*

Synod / Assembly / UnitingCare / UnitingWorld News...

Responding to Domestic Violence - 3 Part Zoom Workshop

The next Responding to Domestic Violence zoom series will take place on Wednesday evenings from 7pm-8.30pm on 21st February, 28th February and 6th March. The series will start by breaking open what is Domestic Violence including stories from survivors; look at the dynamics of perpetrators; how to create a supportive church culture and how to respond to victims and survivors (the dos and don'ts).

To ensure that price is not a deterrent, participants will have the option of attending free of charge or paying \$20 to help JCDVPP continue developing resources and offering courses. Those who pay \$20 will receive two copies of the short book: "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: Questions women ask about relationships and Christianity."



Queensland Churches Together

RESPONDING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Zoom Workshop Series

Discover the power to make a real difference! Unveil the stark reality beneath the surface—despite efforts by authorities, women continue to be killed at a rate of more than one a week. But this is the tip of the iceberg, with a significant number of people suffering abuse and coercive control each and every day.

Domestic violence happens in Churches too! Contrary to common belief, the pews hold stories untold. Research illuminates the harsh reality: Intimate Family Violence echoes within our congregations as much as in the wider community.

Empower yourself! Gain the tools and insight crucial for Church Leaders. Erase uncertainty, confront, and advocate confidently. Let's rewrite the narrative together, equipping our communities with knowledge and action.





Workshop Dates

The workshop will run over three Wednesday evenings

Session 1: 21 Feb 2024
 Session 2: 28 Feb 2024
 Session 3: 6 Mar 2024

All sessions run from
 7.00pm - 8.30pm
 (Brisbane time)



[Register Now](https://qct.org.au)

For Information 
07 3369 6792

 More Information
<https://qct.org.au>

Mt Louisa Community Church Enhances Lighting With Grant Funding



The Mt. Louisa Community Church secured a grant to fund the implementation of LED lighting, enhancing its aesthetic appeal while lowering its energy costs.

Hiring out the church premises is a crucial element in maintaining the financial stability of the church, according to Ian Jessup, who serves as the Treasurer of the Church Council and Chair of the Property Committee.

Ian said the size of the building means there are a lot of associated costs.

“It’s imperative for us to stay vigilant with maintenance,” he said. “Inside the main structure, there are approximately a hundred light fixtures; unfortunately, about a quarter of them were not functioning. Furthermore, the ceilings soar to a height of around 12 metres, making maintenance quite challenging.”

Read more of the article by Andrew McKaysmith, Synod Writer and Content Creator, at [Journey Online](#).

Enroll now for 2024 at Trinity College and enjoy a 4-week study trial!



It's not too late to enrol in a course at Trinity and start your study for 2024. You can even trial studying for free for the first four weeks of the semester! Semester 1 starts Tuesday, February 6, with our commencement dinner and orientation night on Monday, 5.

Call [07 3377 9950](tel:0733779950) to find out all your options.

From The Word for Today...

Read the signals with your children

'My children, listen as I teach you to respect the LORD.' Psalm 34:11 CEV

Smithsonian magazine once featured a British master stonecutter named Simon Verity. He restored thirteenth-century cathedrals in Great Britain. As the authors watched him work, they noticed something fascinating.

'Verity listens closely to hear the song of the stone under his careful blows. A solid strike and all is well. A higher-pitched ping could mean trouble. A chunk of rock could break off. He constantly adjusts the angle of the chisel and the force of the mallet to the pitch, pausing frequently to run his hand over the freshly carved surface.'

Verity understood the importance of his task. He knew one wrong move could be devastating, causing irreparable damage to his work of art. His success was rooted in his ability to read the signals his stones were sending. If you're a parent or someone who works with children, you need to hone your skills at listening to them, especially during times of discipline and guidance. It takes a great deal of patience and sensitivity to interpret a child's responses. But if you listen carefully, they will tell you what they're thinking and feeling. And God will help you to do it: *'The Lord God has given Me The tongue of the learned, That I should know how to speak A word in season to him who is weary. ...'* (Isaiah 50:4 NKJV).

Each changing season in a child's development raises different questions, calling for different answers. To have the right answer, you must be tuned in to the question they're asking at the time. Not only will you be imparting to them the wisdom they need at that time, you will be teaching them how to do it with their own children.

(Reflection from vision.org.au website – The Word for Today reading, 17 January 2024) The Word for Today is authored by Bob and Debby Gass and published under licence from UCB International Copyright 2024)

