

Link



Carpentaria Presbytery

- of the Uniting Church in Australia -

Pastoral Notes / Prayer Points

- ◆ **Pray for Jim and Michelle Cullen** – Jim is undergoing treatment for cancer and they welcome prayers for this time of treatment
- ◆ **Pray for Presbytery Budget meetings happening this week**
- ◆ **Garry will be in TI this weekend**
- ◆ **REMINDER: Safe Ministry for Children Audit 2024** – email request has been sent out to congregations requesting information for the Audit and info is due by end of Feb 24. Ana will make phone contact with each congregation in due course

A Prayer for Lenten Grace

Loving God,
 During the sacred season of Lent, bring me closer to you.
 Prepare a place in my home and heart for silence and solitude, so that I may re-discover the grace of a prayer-full life.
 Help me to fast from those things that threaten the well-being of body and soul and remind me of the grace of simplicity.
 Enlarge my heart so that I give to those in need and, in so doing, re-discover the grace of gratitude and generosity.
 May this season be a grace-filled time to rekindle my love for and faith in you.
 Amen.



Presbytery Office NEW

Postal Address

PO Box 6071
 Mackay MC Qld 4741

(07) 4068 8131

Office Hours

Mon Tues Wed & Frid
 8.30am-1.30pm

Executive Assistant

Ana Mila

(07) 4068 8131

office@ucacarpentaria.com.au

Presbytery Minister Rural & Chairperson

Rev Garry Hardingham

0409 276 940

presminrural@ucacarpentaria.com.au

Presbytery Minister Pastoral & Coastal

Rev Christy Allen

0418 184 834

presmincoastal@ucacarpentaria.com.au

Presbytery Administrator

Robyn Cooley

0429 195 506

admin@ucacarpentaria.com.au

Hospital Chaplains:

Cairns:

Rev Shane Kammermann

0409 287 109

Townsville:

Rev Barry Cox

0408 415 816

Carpentaria News...

Easter Madness Sunday - 18th February 2024

The Easter Madness Team asks congregations to please look at asking your Church Councils to consider their request to have a **retiring offering to support Easter Madness 2024 for Sunday 18th February**.

The PPT we have prepared for you to use to advertise can be found at this link below. Best to download the images – that seems to help open them correctly.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1NQeRoAhL3LoTOWC0CVAox1LKj8FAGWB6?usp=sharing>

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Lysani on 0428 607 068 or via email: eastermadness@mrpres.org.au OR the Moreton Rivers Presbytery office: office@mrpres.org.au

Thank you for your consideration and support of Easter Madness.

Easter Madness Team

Kennedy Bush Chaplain

Pics of Pastor Joe Eka our Kennedy Bush Chaplain in his travels providing essential supplies and spiritual guidance to those in need after Cyclone Jasper.



Act2 – Uniting in Prayer 2024

Following the popularity of the very first Uniting in Prayer event last year, we will be running the event again this year from 19 May - 22nd of June. We are currently working on a range of worship resources as well as the new 2024 Prayer Chain (a whole of church prayer chain that will include congregations, presbyteries, synod, agencies and schools).

Our team is also currently putting together daily prayers for the 35 days. We are asking you to help in identifying people and communities in your presbytery that may want to contribute a prayer to be shared over the 35 days. In 2024, the daily prayers will have an emphasis on creativity and include written prayers, videos, images, songs, poetry and art. Please let us know if you have any names or contacts for those who might be interested, simply include their contacts in a reply to this email and one of our team will reach out to them.

Due date for prayers are 31st of March 2024.

For more information or to sign up for Uniting in Prayer 2024 see our website:
<https://www.act2uca.com/unitinginprayer2024>

Save the date now in your personal and church calendars and sign up on the website to receive the resources, daily prayers and updates straight to your inbox.



Queensland Churches Together – Responding to Domestic Violence Zoom Workshop Series

A set of three online zoom workshops will take place on **Wednesday evenings on 21st February, 28th February and 6th March. The workshops will run from 7pm - 8.30pm.** The workshops are aimed at Clergy, Church Leaders, Pastoral Carers and all who would like to learn more about supporting those affected by Domestic Family Violence.

Register via Trybooking - <https://www.trybooking.com/COJMX>

To remove any barriers to attending the workshops - there is no charge, though to help the Joint Churches Domestic Violence Prevention Project (JCDVPP) to continue producing resources, there is an option to pay \$20 for which you will also receive two copies of the book "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: Questions Women ask about Relationships and Christian Beliefs."

Please could you circulate the flyers for the workshops and add to newsletters, pew sheets and face book.

[Link to pdf version of flyer](#)

[Link to png version of the flyer](#) for Facebook

Synod / Assembly / UnitingCare / UnitingWorld News...

40 days of faithful action for God's creation!



UnitingWorld is challenging us to take **40 days of faithful action for God's creation this Lent**, commencing Wednesday February 14.

Climate change is the biggest threat to the world we want to see. Climate change is worsening every threat to peace, security and human wellbeing in our world. **But our God is mighty and faithful, and calling us to respond to the climate crisis with hope, unity and decisive action.**

This Lent, commit to action – Personal change, Practical support, Political advocacy – for the world we want to see: hopeful, peaceful, life in abundance for all.

- Suggestions for action [here](#).
- **Donate** to support critical climate action in vulnerable communities in the Pacific and Asia, through projects led by our international church partners.
- Sign up for a **fundraising challenge** for **individuals** or **church groups** to raise more!
- **Speak up** and advocate for climate justice.

Lent Event resources include:

- a weekly video series from our partner churches for individual or church use
- a daily email series with reflection and ideas for action ([subscribe here](#))
- promotional assets for newsletters and social posting

Find out more at www.lentevent.com.au

The Season of Lent starts this week, and we invite you to join us as we explore The Great Restoration Project

This Lent, we invite you to join us as we learn about the greatest restoration project of all time. Over seven weeks we'll focus on God's plan for humankind – an unexpected and brilliant plan for restoration and new life. The resources are based on the lectionary and explore the restoration theme with a toolbox metaphor and include reflections, worship themes and suggestions, interactive and intergenerational elements, prayers, tool fun facts, and restorative practices.

[Materials are available now - click to view!](#)

For more information contact Jess Pinkerton or Paul Wetzig via discipleship@ucaqld.com.au

GRANTS - The Gambling Community Benefit Fund

Update on the Gambling Community Benefit Grant [Gambling Community Benefit Fund | Department of Justice and Attorney-General](#)

The Gambling Community Benefit Fund (GCBF) is Queensland's largest one-off community grants program and distributes approximately \$60 million each year to not-for-profit community groups. The GCBF funding helps these groups to provide services, leisure activities and opportunities for Queensland communities.

The GCBF will have 3 funding rounds in 2024:

1. Round 120—\$35,000 standard grant round—closes 29 February
2. Round 121—\$100,000 30th Anniversary super round—closes 30 April
3. Round 122—\$35,000 standard grant round—closes 30 November.

Contact the GCBF team on phone **1800 633 619** if you need help.

NAIDOC 2024 local grants



The NAIDOC 2024 Local Grants Opportunity is now open and applications can be lodged on GrantConnect up until 3:00 pm AEDT on Thursday 22 February 2024. Held across Australia from 7-14 July 2024, NAIDOC Week will celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Read more at www.niaa.gov.au



From The Word for Today...

Keep hope alive

'Now faith is the certainty of things hoped for, a proof of things not seen.' Hebrews 11:1 NASB20

At some stage in our lives, most of us will or have gone through times when things looked hopeless. But, when you decide things are hopeless, you slam the door in God's face.

First: Take all your troubles or desires to God. If you've gotten to the stage where you feel things are hopeless, you've clearly neglected your faith, or you've been hoping for something that is not in God's will. *'Now faith is the certainty of things hoped for, a proof of things not seen.'* (Hebrews 11:1 NASB20)

Second: Give hope a symbol – something you can centre your thoughts around. Jeremiah taught God's people a lesson in hope by buying land at Anathoth (see Jeremiah 32:9). He knew they would be taken into captivity, and during those long years, the memory of that faraway field in Judah would act as a symbol of future restoration.

During World War II, when Leo Algimas and his family were herded into concentration camps, they maintained a symbol of hope, a tiny piece of paper from a box of chocolates with an American flag on the bottom. They passed it from hand to hand, looked at it, held it, and whispered about the liberation army that was coming.

Symbols help us fix our minds on what's possible. In fact, the greatest symbol the world has ever known was the hardest to believe. A baby in a manger signalled God's kingdom on earth and changed mankind's destiny. And He can change *your* destiny. **Define what you hope for, ask in His name, and if it's God's will, no matter how impossible it looks, expect it to come true.**

(Reflection from vision.org.au website – The Word for Today reading, 14 February 2024) The Word for Today is authored by Bob and Debby Gass and published under licence from UCB International Copyright 2024)

