

# Link



## Pastoral Notes / Prayer Points

- ◆ **Pray for Christy and her mother & family** – Christy’s mother is recovering well after her fall and Christy is with her
- ◆ **Christy will be at Synod Standing Committee in Brisbane on Thursday**
- ◆ **Garry is running training for Zone Chairs in Cairns from Wed-Thur**
- ◆ **REMINDER: Safe Ministry for Children Audit 2023** – your Safe Ministry for Children audit info is due. Ana will make contact with each congregation over next couple of weeks
- ◆ **DATE CLAIMER: Presbytery Meeting will be on 3-5 May 2024 at Mission Beach** – 1<sup>st</sup> Info letter has been sent out
- ◆ **DATE CLAIMER: Presbytery Ministry Agent & Spouse Retreat will be on 5-8 May 2024 at Cardwell**

## 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](mailto:office@ucacarpentaria.com.au)

### Presbytery Minister Rural & Chairperson

Rev Garry Hardingham

0409 276 940

[presminrural@ucacarpentaria.com.au](mailto:presminrural@ucacarpentaria.com.au)

### Presbytery Minister Pastoral & Coastal

Rev Christy Allen

0418 184 834

[presmincoastal@ucacarpentaria.com.au](mailto:presmincoastal@ucacarpentaria.com.au)

### Presbytery Administrator

Robyn Cooley

0429 195 506

[admin@ucacarpentaria.com.au](mailto:admin@ucacarpentaria.com.au)

### Hospital Chaplains:

#### Cairns:

Rev Shane Kammermann

0409 287 109

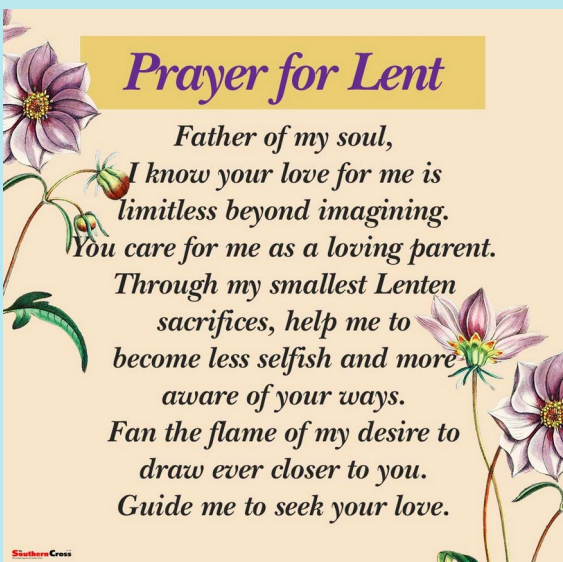
#### Townsville:

Rev Barry Cox

0408 415 816

## Prayer for Lent

Father of my soul,  
I know your love for me is  
limitless beyond imagining.  
You care for me as a loving parent.  
Through my smallest Lenten  
sacrifices, help me to  
become less selfish and more  
aware of your ways.  
Fan the flame of my desire to  
draw ever closer to you.  
Guide me to seek your love.



# Carpentaria News...

## Carpentaria Presbytery Meeting – 3-5 May 2024

Our next Presbytery meeting to be held **3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024**, is fast approaching. It will be great to be together again! A reminder that this meeting is for both Ministry Agents and lay reps from each congregation along with Ministry Agents who are in placements in other roles e.g. Chaplaincy (**2 per congregation, including Ministry Agent**). It would be wonderful to have more lay people join our meetings.

The Presbytery meeting will be held at the **Mission Beach Resort** and will begin at **3:00 pm on Friday afternoon** for all Ministry Agents who are required to attend the compulsory Safe Ministry with Children training. You must be present for the whole training, for it to be registered as 'complete'. For all Presbytery delegates, a BBQ buffet dinner will be served at **5:30pm Friday night**, with our opening worship and first session to follow at 7:00pm. Check-in to rooms can commence from 2:00pm.

**Register here:**

<https://www.ucacarpentaria.com.au/events/event2020.php>

**Registrations must be finalised by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April (as per venue requirements)**

If you have any queries, please contact Ana at the Presbytery office.

## Alex Park Conference Centre

For generations of Queenslanders, a desire for a sanctuary and retreat has drawn them to beautiful Alex Park, tucked into the rainforest by the coast. Natural wonders, peaceful spaces, simple comforts, a warm welcome and an easy-to-adapt environment has made it a beloved destination for school camps, family holidays and countless outdoor adventures, for meaningful celebrations and calm retreats.

It's a heritage that would delight Alex Park's founders, who envisioned a place that was, above all, a sacred space for connection and community: a place where individuals from all walks of life could gather, forge meaningful connections and enrich their personal lives.

They started a tradition of simple Easter camps, where young people found solace and forged deep friendships in the majesty of Creation. Over time, Alex Park evolved to host camps and getaways of all kinds, keeping connection and community at the centre of their approach.

As General Manager Danny Salzke reflects, their foresight in building a church-owned facility in the lush beauty of the rainforest and coast speaks volumes about their heart to nurture unity and inclusivity; a vision carried on by the Uniting Church to this day.

Alex Park continues to be a beacon of hope and community for a diverse array of social groups, including schools, families, corporate organisations, sporting teams, and community interest groups.

Among the many groups that have recently benefited from Alex Park's ministry of connection is Uniting Early Learning. General Manager Belinda Briggs shares: "The facilities perfectly suited our needs, and the location provided an atmosphere that helped our team disconnect from their daily routines and fully engage in our conferences".

Similarly, Moreton Rivers Presbytery's Easter Madness event exemplifies Alex Park's ability to facilitate deep spiritual experiences and meaningful connections: "Faith, friends, fun!" was one guest's wrap-up.

Events such as the Uniting Qld Synod in Session are held here, where (as you know!) members gather to engage in fellowship, worship, and reflection. Family Camp is a yearly testament to Alex Park's ability to create an inclusive environment for families to draw closer and create lasting memories.

As Danny emphasises, Alex Park's ministry extends beyond Christian circles, welcoming individuals of all backgrounds to connect with its Christian heritage and embrace the shared values of unity and inclusivity. The outdoor bush chapel serves as a poignant reminder of the spiritual foundation upon which Alex Park was built, offering visitors a sacred space for reflection and connection with nature.

In today's fast-paced world, characterised by digital distractions and societal divides, Alex Park remains a haven of serenity and community, creating respite from the pressures of modern life so people can reconnect with themselves, each other, and the divine.

Alex Park is a shining example of the Uniting Church's hope: to build a more united and compassionate world.

To discover more about Alex Park and its ministry of connection, visit [alexpark.com.au](http://alexpark.com.au) or contact them directly at [info@alexpark.com.au](mailto:info@alexpark.com.au)

### UEL



### Easter Madness



### UCA Synod in Session



# ***Synod / Assembly / UnitingCare / UnitingWorld News...***

## **Important updates on Disaster Relief fund application process**



Thank you for all the incredibly generous donations to the Queensland Synod Disaster Relief Appeal by many congregations over the last year. This fund was established to aid congregations and their communities affected by natural disasters. Congregations are eligible to apply for \$5000 grants from this fund, with a 100% approval rate thus far.

- **For more information and a simple application process, please visit the [Disaster Relief page on the Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod website](#)**

\$43,000 has been distributed to various congregations across Queensland, supporting emergency supplies, community cleanup efforts, and welfare events. We encourage congregations to consider this fund in times of need.

**If you require assistance with the application, please get in touch with Vanessa Griffiths at [vanessa.griffiths@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:vanessa.griffiths@ucaqld.com.au).**

## **Apply now for a grant from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund**



Are you considering applying for the [Gambling Community Benefit Fund \(GCBF\)](#) \$100,000 Super round 121, closing on April 30? Queensland's largest community grants program, the GCBF, distributes about \$60 million yearly to non-profits. Funding supports services, leisure activities, and opportunities for Queensland communities.

If you would like step-by-step guidance on registering and completing your application, click on this link: [Fundraising Webinar - Gambling Community Benefit Fund grant applications made easy \(Copy\) on Vimeo.](#)

## From The Word for Today...

### Pull down those strongholds

**'The weapons of our warfare are ... mighty in God for pulling down strongholds.'** 2 Corinthians 10:4 NKJV

When the Bible speaks of a stronghold, it's referring to an area in your life that's controlled by wrong thinking. And that stronghold will attract people who think the same way and feed off it. But there is good news. Not only will God reveal to you the strongholds in your life, He will also show you the experiences that caused them. Some of us worry obsessively about money because we grew up in hard times. As a result, we're inclined to depend more on ourselves than on God. When it comes to money, we hide it, hoard it, or withhold it. And because we're afraid to sow it, we miss the very harvest that would solve our problem. 'So, how can I deal with my stronghold?' you ask. Attack it with the Word of God.

You don't have to accept whatever comes into your mind; you have a choice! If a thought lines up with the Word of God, accept it – if it doesn't, reject it. When Satan comes against you, don't just sit there and say, 'I wish he would leave me alone. I don't feel like fighting today.' If you do, he will 'devour' you! (See 1 Peter 5:8.)

Paul describes your Bible as '*... the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God;...*' (Ephesians 6:17 NKJV). Did you get that? The Holy Spirit within you will wield the sword of Scripture for you – provided you have done *your* job, which is to get the Word of God inside you. Do you want to pull down the strongholds in your life? Reprogram your mind with the truths of God's Word.

*(Reflection from vision.org.au website – The Word for Today reading, 6 March 2024) The Word for Today is authored by Bob and Debby Gass and published under licence from UCB International Copyright 2024)*

