

Link



Pastoral Notes / Prayer Points

- ◆ **DATE CLAIMER: Presbytery Meeting will be on 3-5 May 2024 at Mission Beach – registration closes on 19th April**
- ◆ **DATE CLAIMER: Presbytery Ministry Agent & Spouse Retreat will be on 5-8 May 2024 at Cardwell – registration closes on 22nd April**

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Carpentaria News...

Ministry Agents & Spouse Retreat – 5-8 May 2024

The annual Ministry Agents & Spouse Presbytery Retreat will be held from 5-8 May 2024 at Cardwell Beachcomber Motel and Tourist Park, following the Presbytery meeting at Mission Beach.

We ask congregations to encourage your minister to attend and it would be wonderful if the congregation or agency pay for their ministry agent to attend but please discuss together. Please register as soon as possible so we can finalise numbers and **registrations close on 22 April**.

Here is the link to register: <https://www.ucacarpentaria.com.au/events/event2121.php>

Carpentaria Presbytery Meeting – 3-5 May 2024

Our next Presbytery meeting to be held **3rd to 5th 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 19th April (as per venue requirements)

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

DATE CLAIMERS

- **29th March** – Good Friday
- **31st March** – Easter Sunday
- **5th - 8th April** – Easter Madness 2024 at Alex Park Conference Centre
- **20th April** – Southern Zone meeting followed by lunch (provided) from 9.30am at Mount Louisa Community church
- **27th April** – Northern Zone meeting followed by hangi from 10.30am at Cairns Emmanuel
- **2nd May** – Calvary Zone meeting at Cairns Sheridan
- **3rd - 5th May** – Presbytery Meeting at Mission Beach Resort (Registrations close 19th April)
- **5th - 8th May** – Ministry Agent & Spouse Retreat at Cardwell Beachcomber Tourist Park (Registrations close 22nd April)

Easter Greeting from Garry...

It flashed across my phone as "Breaking News" just yesterday afternoon. A major bridge across the harbour in Baltimore, Maryland, collapsed after being hit by a container ship. The sight of seeing car lights descend in to murky depths and the thought of how many people might be on that bridge, even at 1.30am, filled me with dread and compassion for those whose lives will turn from joy to mourning in just a few heartbeats.

As I looked at the video of the crumpled remains of the bridge lying prostrate across the harbour, I thought that this is a major bridge with a lot of commuters travelling over it everyday. How long before this crumpled ruin will rise again and the lives of those who rely on it are restored?

The story of Easter is this story.

It is the story of a man, just a man, whose pathetic and bloodied body was to hang lifeless on a rude cross. No-one else felt those whips like he did. No-one else felt the weight of that splintery cross like he did. No-one else felt the sharpness of the thorns or the brutal pain of nails driven through flesh and cartilage. No, He bore that pain alone.

And as his lifeless body was carted off to a tomb to be sealed to its murky darkness, only a few seemed to really mourn his passing.

And yet, while it was but one man lying there motionless, lifeless and broken, it was hope and the expectations of thousands that seemed to be dashed by the cruelty played out.

What now?

What is our future?

How do we work this now?

The people of Baltimore will recover from the deaths of those killed when the bridge collapsed, but how long will it be before they see what they once believed to be strong and everlasting returned to its glory and restore their interrupted lives....months? Years? A decade?

And what will that time be like for them?

The uncertainty, the communal grief of an icon, albeit just a bridge.

The weighing of the loss of life compared to the inconvenience now wrought upon millions of people.

In the day and a bit between Jesus's death and his resurrection, what was the feelings of those who had put trust in Jesus? In Luke's Gospel of the events of Easter, we read of the two of Jesus' disciples were walking to Emmaus. "But we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel," one of the disciples decries.

The motif of death and resurrection is a common theme of the church. We use it for all sorts of things, from the changing of ministry in a congregation to our financial situation or even recovering from a surgery. But so often we wail and decry on Friday and whoop and rejoice on Sunday and forget that Saturday lies between.

And, if we are honest with ourselves, a lot of our lives are played out on Saturday. Its the day when the shock of Friday is starting to fade, but we have no concept of the Sunday to come. Its the day of uncertainty, of rumour, of gossip and sometimes even seething anger unable to find a voice.

For some of our churches its the endless weeks and months of "going it alone" or with spasmodic supply when one minister leaves and no-one else has come to replace them. We know the story of resurrection, of new life, of hope, but Sunday feels too far away.

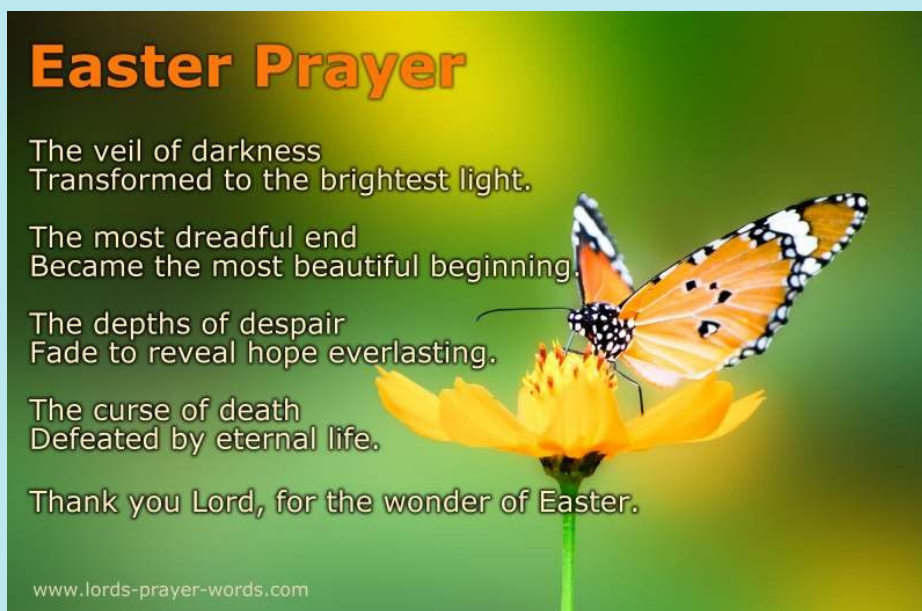
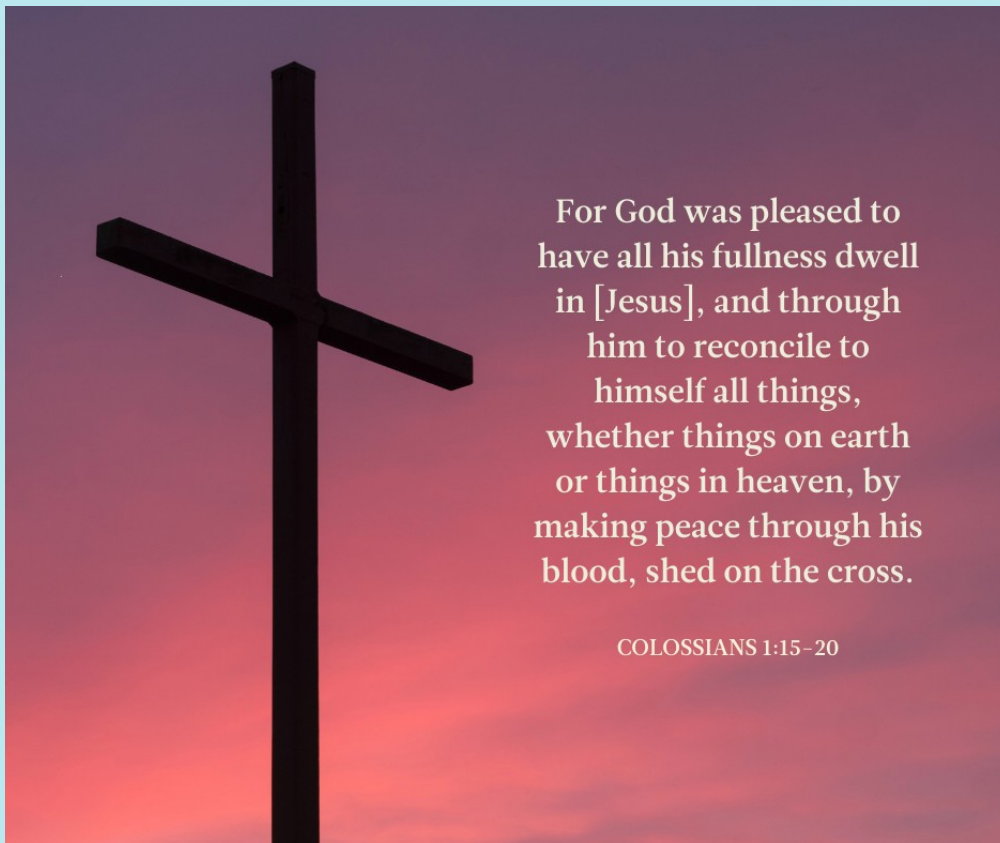
This Easter I invite us all to spend some time on Saturday praying for our congregations awaiting new ministry to arrive, or who have gone year after year never even dreaming that new ministry will come.

Like the mother of the prodigal son, Saturday doesn't even raise a mention in the narrative, but it should. Because Saturday teaches us to be patient and to trust that God has a plan, even if we are blind to it.

So, have a reflective Good Friday and a joyous Easter Sunday. But, this year, find space for a prayerful Saturday and know that even the most uncertain times, just like the men walking to Emmaus, we do not walk alone. For God hears the cries of His people and like those for whom builders will rebuild the bridge in Baltimore, we will not be forgotten.

Bless you all.

Garry



Grants – Queensland Child Protection Week

Purpose

The Queensland Child Protection Week Committee is offering Grants for the staging of public events that positively support the Child Protection Week theme throughout the State.

Overview

Events held during Queensland Child Protection Week give the community a chance to get involved and give their support to the important issues that we promote.

Regional Grant

Regional Grants of \$5,000 (exclusive GST) are available for each of the six regional areas of Queensland. The regions are:

- Far North Queensland
- North Queensland
- Sunshine Coast & Central Queensland
- Brisbane & Moreton Bay
- South East Queensland
- South West Queensland

Funding submissions must reflect collaboration with a minimum of five other agencies within the region. To be eligible for funding your submission must respond to the selection criteria for the Regional Grants.

Activity Grant

Grants of up to \$1000 (exclusive of GST) are available to non-government organisations, community organisations and networks. Successful applicants may receive full or partial grants. The Queensland Child Protection Week Committee encourages applications for events that have been designed to positively support the theme and aims of Child Protection Week.

Thus your local activity will:

- promote the theme 'Protecting children is everybody's business'
- promote our Key Messages
- provide people with an opportunity for ongoing involvement in helping prevent abuse and neglect
- provide drug and alcohol free family friendly events
- The event/activity must be completed within Child Protection Week 1 - 7 September 2024.
- where possible, link participants to a broad range of information, resources and services already available through government and non-government organisations.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Engagement Grant

Not for profit groups operating in Queensland can apply for the one off grant payment of \$5,000 (exclusive GST) through the QCPW Committee. This grant will be awarded to a not-for-profit community group to enhance and promote child protection messages within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

To be eligible for funding your submission must respond to the selection criteria outlined below.

1. Facilitate an event across multiple locations that promotes the theme Protecting Children is Everybody's Business and reflects the interests and diversity of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community;
2. The event/activity must be completed within Child Protection Week 1 - 7 September 2024.
3. Raise awareness of child abuse and neglect as an issue within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
4. Promote local services available to support children and families who have experienced child abuse and neglect, or are at risk
5. Equip individuals and communities with knowledge and skills to understand child abuse and neglect and empower them to take action
6. Funding submissions must reflect collaboration with other agencies across multiple regional locations (minimum 5 organisations required)
7. The lead organisation applying for the grant should be an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation

Example

Examples of events previously held:

- Family Fun Days with information on local services to support children and families who have experienced abuse and neglect, or are at risk
- Education sessions providing information on child abuse and neglect services provided directly to children and families
- Art exhibitions showcasing works which capture the theme Protecting Children is Everybodys Business
- Professional development sessions for those working in the Child Protection sector (excludes mandatory training)
- Family movie events with stands providing information on local child protection services
- Educational safety sessions targeted at keeping Children and Young People safe online (excludes cyber bullying)
- Community Events which promote Child Protection Week Key Messages

Limitations - Eligibility & Examples

Examples of organisations eligible for funding under the Child Protection Week Grants include:

- Non-Government Organisations, Neighbourhood Centres, Childcare Centres, Womens Centres, Parents and Friends/Citizens/ Associations, Police Citizens Youth Clubs, Community Playgroups, Youth Centres.
- Organisations can only submit one application per funding round for any one location
- Applications for funding will be considered for new and separate activities/events of existing projects

Examples of organisations ineligible for funding under Child Protection Week Grants are:

- Government organisations (e.g Department of Education Training and the Arts, Queensland Health), Local Government authorities (e.g. City Councils).
- Organisations applying for funding for a project that already has funding from another source.
- Organisations having a previous Child Protection Week Activity Grant that has reached the acquittal stage, but have not provided a satisfactory performance report.
- The following activities do not fall under child protection and are not eligible for grants (bullying, water safety, car safety, cyber bullying)

Verse of the day March 27th



**And the peace of God,
which passeth all understanding,
shall keep your hearts and minds
through Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:7 KJB**

From The Word for Today...

Your secret place

'When you pray, go into your room.' Matthew 6:6 NIV

Jesus said, *'But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you'* (Matthew 6:6 NIV). The Christian life could be compared to the Old Testament tabernacle, which was divided into three compartments. There was an outer court to which everyone had access. And you, too, have an outer court; the place you go to work, shop, and play. It represents your outward appearance or public persona, the part of you everyone sees.

The Tabernacle also had an inner chamber called the Holy Place, where most people weren't permitted to go. You also have a Holy Place where designated people like close friends or family can enter. You decide who comes in and who doesn't, and no one can force their way. Certain people may have authority over you vocationally or financially, but that doesn't automatically allow them entrance. When it comes to that inner chamber, you get to decide who comes and goes.

The third compartment in the Old Testament Tabernacle was the holy of holies, a very small, carefully guarded place deep inside. It was accessed only by the chief priest, and there was room for only one person and God. You have one of those places inside you as well. We sometimes refer to it as 'the secret place' because only God is allowed in. And here is a truth you need to know: your level of peace, joy, contentment, guidance, and victory is regulated by the amount of time you spend with God in your secret place. Prioritise it, protect it, and spend time there each day.

(Reflection from vision.org.au website – The Word for Today reading, 27 March 2024) The Word for Today is authored by Bob and Debby Gass and published under licence from UCB International Copyright 2024



BUT WHEN YOU
PRAY, GO INTO
YOUR ROOM,
CLOSE THE DOOR
AND PRAY TO
YOUR FATHER,
WHO IS UNSEEN.
THEN YOUR
FATHER, WHO
SEES WHAT IS
DONE IN SECRET,
WILL REWARD YOU.

Matthew 6:6