



# Carpentaria Presbytery

- of the Uniting Church in Australia -



#7 | 2026

## NOTES & UPDATES

- **Christy** at Synod Standing Committee meeting on Thursday
- **Registrations for Presbytery Meeting on 1-3 May 2026 in Cairns now open – deadline is 24 April**
- **Registration for Presbytery Retreat on 3-6 May in Cardwell now open – deadline is 24 April**
- **39<sup>th</sup> Synod – Carpentaria Roll** – congregational reps **due to Ana by 17 April**

## PRAYER POINTS

- **PLT meeting on 8 April 2026**
- **Areas and communities affected by storms and flooding**
- **Preparations for upcoming Presbytery Meeting and Retreat**
- **All Carpentaria congregations and faith communities as they celebrate Easter 2026**

## PRESBYTERY OFFICE

Monday – Friday | 8:30am – 5:00pm    0459 544 507    PO Box 6071, Mackay MC QLD 4741

### Presbytery Minister Pastoral & Coastal

**REV CHRISTY ALLEN (Chairperson)**

0418 184 834 | [presmincoastal@ucacarpentaria.com.au](mailto:presmincoastal@ucacarpentaria.com.au)

*Residing in Southern Zone*

### Presbytery Minister Rural (Supply)

**REV CRAIG MISCHEWSKI (Deputy Chairperson)**

0400 036 630 | [cjmisch@gmail.com](mailto:cjmisch@gmail.com)

*Residing in Northern Zone*

### Executive Assistant

**ANA MILA (Secretary)**

0459 544 507 | [office@ucacarpentaria.com.au](mailto:office@ucacarpentaria.com.au)

Mon-Fri 8.30am-5.00pm

### Presbytery Administrator

**ROBYN COOLEY (Treasurer)**

0429 195 506 | [admin@ucacarpentaria.com.au](mailto:admin@ucacarpentaria.com.au)

Mon & Tues 9am to 3:30pm | Wed 9am to 1:00pm |

Thur 12:30pm to 4:30pm

### Administration Support (1 day/wk)

**NATALIE LUND**

0491 278 198 | [natalie.lund@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:natalie.lund@ucaqld.com.au)

Mon 10am-12:30pm | Wed 2-4:30pm | Thurs 3-4:30pm

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## EASTER REFLECTION

### REFLECTION FROM CRAIG MISCHEWSKI

The lectionary reading for Easter Sunday is John 20:1-18 and it talks about the disciples finding the stone rolled away and an empty tomb. We also read about Mary encountering Jesus and mistaking him for a gardener and Jesus offering these words, “*don’t cling to me...*”.

We sit globally in a very uncertain situation with the results of the illegal war in Iran and the consequences to the world because of the closure of the straits of Hormuz and that impact of fuel supplies. War is bad enough, but when it has been promoted by the largest Christian country in the world and justified through reference to

Scripture, it makes it an act of antichrist ideology. In a recent prayer meeting the Secretary of Defence prayed a prayer asking for a blessing to do violence without mercy.

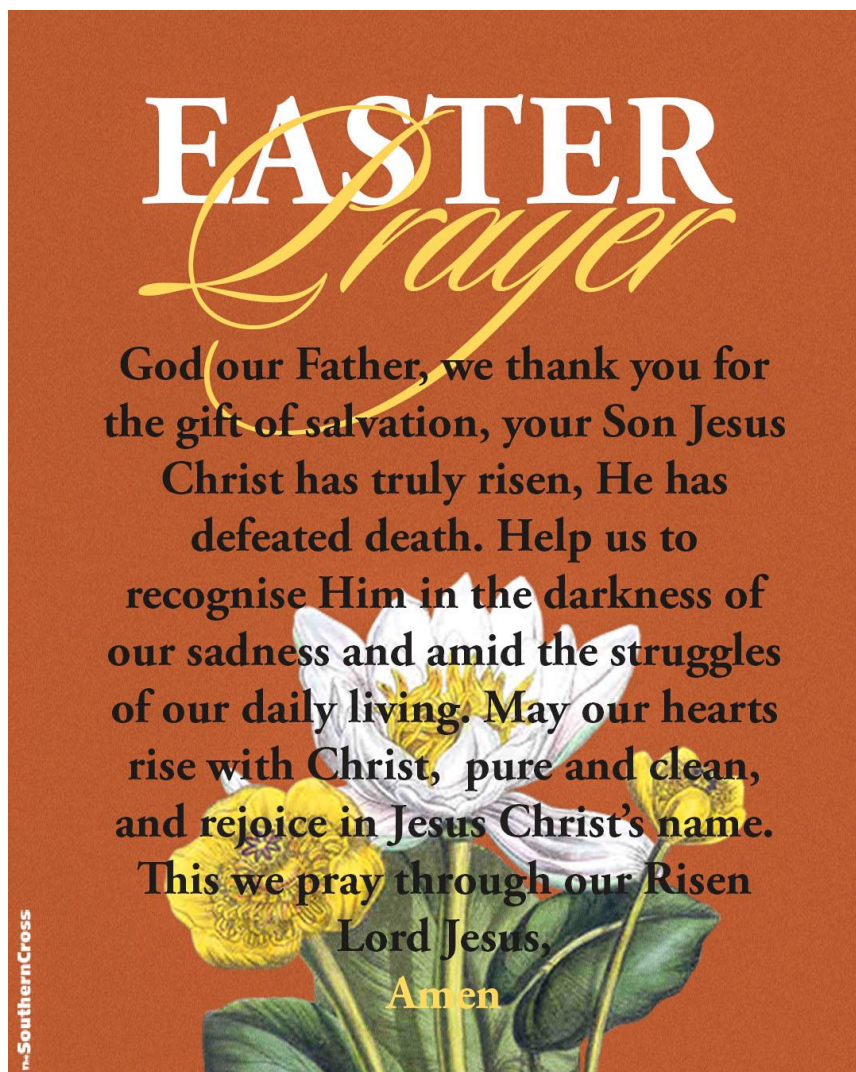
What the resurrection shows us is Jesus is risen to His full status as the Third Person of the Trinity and therefore a prayer to bless violence without mercy is a prayer to Jesus. Jesus is Emmanuel the Prince of Peace not the promoter of violence without mercy. Clearly the leaders of America are confusing Jesus with someone else as Mary did, but in her case, she eventually recognised Jesus, the President and his cabinet have not yet recognised Jesus for who he is.

God rolled the stone away so that Jesus could truly be the Lord of Creation but those obsessed with power, control and wealth want to roll the stone back and somehow trap the Lord of Peace back in the tomb. Sorry you mob, Jesus is out and victorious and will not be subdued by your abuse of His name.

Don't cling to me, said Jesus, because he had not yet ascended to the Father, yet Jesus is now the ascended One so we can cling to Him, but what Jesus are we clinging too, the Jesus of peace who taught love your enemies or the Jesus who promoted violence without mercy. The pope recently said Jesus does not listen to the prayers of those who wage war, but rejects them, saying: *'Even though you make many prayers, I will not listen: your hands are full of blood'*.

There have always been wars, powerful men have always started wars, but what we know of the early Church is they refused to serve in wars and support wars and they were punished at times for their decisions. We all need to decide which Jesus we will follow and cling too, the resurrected Prince of Peace or the one trapped in the tomb of war mongers. Easter is about grasping new life and making it our own, what life do you want?

Peace be with you.

A graphic with a dark orange background. At the top, the word "EASTER" is written in large, white, serif capital letters. Below it, the word "Prayer" is written in a large, elegant, yellow cursive script. In the center, a prayer is written in black serif font. At the bottom, there is a detailed illustration of a white lily and a yellow tulip. The word "Amen" is written in yellow at the end of the prayer. On the left side, there is a small vertical logo for "The Southern Cross".

**EASTER**  
*Prayer*

**God our Father, we thank you for the gift of salvation, your Son Jesus Christ has truly risen, He has defeated death. Help us to recognise Him in the darkness of our sadness and amid the struggles of our daily living. May our hearts rise with Christ, pure and clean, and rejoice in Jesus Christ's name. This we pray through our Risen Lord Jesus,  
Amen**

The Southern Cross



# CARPENTARIA NEWS

## PROPERTY UPDATES

Activity in the property space is very busy at the moment. Two major things are being organised. Please don't confuse them.

1. Asbestos re-inspections (required every 5yrs by law for all properties containing or suspected of containing asbestos) are being organised by the Presbytery. Australian Asbestos Management (AAM) have proposed a discounted rate due to the volume of properties they will inspect. Once the Presbytery has the approval of congregations, the final list of properties will be sent to AAM for them to schedule in their works over the coming months – most likely May, June or July. They will contact the site contact once they have arranged their schedule. There is an increase in price from last time (5 years has elapsed) - \$440 / site.
2. Property Asset assessments are being conducted by a team from the Synod office. Natalie Lund is coordinating these dates between congregations and the Synod team. This does not cover anything to do with asbestos.

If you have any further questions about the asbestos reports, please contact the Presbytery office.

## PRESBYTERY CAPACITY AND RESOURCING

### Presbytery Capacity & Presbytery Resourcing

We want to hear from you! As an individual, or Church Council we would like to know your feedback on the draft proposals:

- **Presbytery Capacity** | [Video](#) | [Draft proposal](#) (see page 5 for issue 1 & 2)
- **Presbytery Resourcing** | [Video](#) | [Draft proposal](#) (see page 6 & 7 for issues 1, 2 and 3)

You can simply send through a few dot points or if you would like a guiding document which includes the issues, please email Ana. Your feedback helps the Presbytery to form our response to the proposals.

It would be great to hear:

- **Positives** – what do you value from these proposals?
- **Challenges / questions** – what you are unsure about, or would like further information on?
- **Suggestions** – what are your ideas?

Please email to Ana at [office@ucacarpentaria.com.au](mailto:office@ucacarpentaria.com.au) by 15<sup>th</sup> April.

## 39<sup>TH</sup> SYNOD – CARPENTARIA PRESBYTERY ROLL

The 39th Synod in Session will be held from **Friday, 23 October to Monday, 26 October 2026**. The plenary sessions of the Synod will be held in the Auditorium, Alexandra Park Conference Centre, Mari Street, Alexandra Headlands, on the Sunshine Coast. **The Celebration of Ministries will be held in Brisbane on Thursday, 22 October at Albert Street Uniting Church.**

The theme for the 39th Synod in Session continues to focus on “RENEWAL”.

Congregations need to start making decisions as to who the Reps (**Ministry agent and Lay**) will be that attends the Synod meeting. All ministry agents are required to attend.

**For the Synod Roll I will need:**

- **Title:**
- **Name:**
- **Address:**

- **Email:**
- **Mobile:**
- **Congregation:**

No person should be elected to the Synod who cannot guarantee attendance at more than 80% of the Synod.

**I would appreciate your assistance in getting the information to Ana ASAP by email:**

[office@ucacarpentaria.com.au](mailto:office@ucacarpentaria.com.au), as I need to collate our Carpentaria roll before our Presbytery meeting in May 2026 so if everyone can aim to get their rep info to me by **17 April 2026** that would be great.

## GRANT TIPS – FEEDBACK AND MANAGING BIG PROJECTS

**Tip 1:** "Unsure what to consider when **identifying risks for an infrastructure project**? Here are a few that are often overlooked:

- Native Title considerations
- Connection to utility services
- Traffic management during works

*These can impact timelines, approvals and costs - so it's worth thinking them through early."*

**Tip 2:** "Sometimes, a simple follow-up can open a door you thought had already closed. If the funder allows it, **asking for feedback** can be well worth your time. In the past three months, two Grant Writing Academy members have shared stories about following up on unsuccessful applications. Both received feedback - and both were reconsidered after the round had closed. It doesn't happen every time, and not all funders offer this option. But when they do, it shows you're proactive, open to learning, and serious about improving your application."

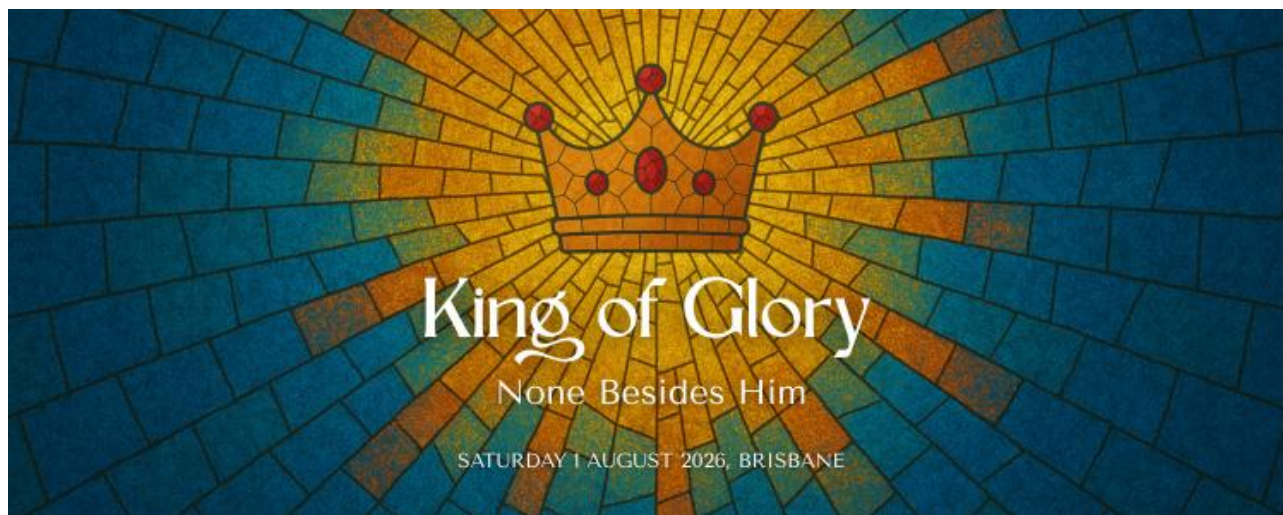
**Tip 3:** "**Big grant projects can feel overwhelming** - especially when you're staring at a blank page. The key is to break it down. Start by mapping out the main sections: project details, budget, timeline, supporting documents. Then identify the must-haves and get those done first - especially the simple but essential items you can quickly upload into the portal. This builds momentum and makes the project feel more manageable."

## SCAM ALERT

Previously, two congregations were targeted by scammers impersonating the ministry agent and requesting copies of church directories. In both cases, emails looked genuine. Please stay vigilant: always check the sender's actual email address, avoid sending directories or member details without verbal confirmation from the requester, and report anything suspicious immediately. Simple caution can prevent significant breaches.

Click for an [Email Scam Prevention Checklist](#) in the Resource / Insurance Guides section on the Hub.





We're excited to share with you that tickets go on sale 9am, Monday 23 March!

Come to GROW 2026 and marvel at the King of Glory. When and where is GROW 2026?

**Saturday 1st August 2026**

**9am - 3.30pm (check in from 8am, doors open 8.30am)**

**Riverlife, 47 Jennifer Street, Seventeen Mile Rocks, QLD**

**What are the ticket prices and inclusions?**

\$66 Early Bird

\$75 Group

\$79 Standard

\$36 High Schoolers

\$56 Concession (F/T Student or Pensioner Card Holder)

Early Bird Registration closes 11pm Sunday 24 May

Standard Registration closes 11pm Sunday 19 July

Morning tea and lunch, tea and coffee, water bottle, and conference booklet are included. We look forward to gathering with you at GROW 2026!

**The GROW Committee**



## DATE CLAIMERS

### 2026

**23 March to 7 April** – Robyn Cooley on Leave

**13-14 April** – Presbytery Office Bearers Collaboration in Brisbane

**30 April** – Muth Arrak Zone Meeting in Cairns

**1-3 May** – #1 Presbytery Meeting in Cairns at Cairns Emmanuel

**4-6 May** – Ministerial and Spouse Retreat at Cardwell

**26 May to 5 July** – Craig Mischewski on Leave

**23-26 October** – 39th Synod at Alex Park

**19 November** – Muth Arrak Zone Meeting in Cairns

**20-22 November** – #2 Presbytery Meeting in Townsville at Mount Louisa Community Church

**23-25 November** – PLT F2F Strategic Meeting

#### **Synod Selection Panel (SSP) Key Dates 2026**

Panel Training Day – 18th April

#### **Selection Day 1**

Applications Close – 27th February

Psychological Testing – 7th March

Synod Selection Day 1 – 23rd May

#### **Selection Day 2**

Applications Close – 31st July

Psychological Testing – 8th August

Synod Selection Day 2 – 7th November

## ZONE MEETINGS

Muth Arrak	Northern	Southern	Gulf
30 April - Cairns 19 November - Cairns	21 March 16 May 18 July 12 September	14 February 11 April 13 June 1 August	(Zoom meetings at 5.30pm) 19 February 23 April 18 June 20 August 17-19 November - Retreat to be confirmed



# THE WORD FOR TODAY

## AVOID COMPARING YOURSELF TO OTHERS

**“It is the spirit in a person, the breath of the Almighty, that gives them understanding.” Job 32:8 NIV**

Elihu suddenly spoke up in Job chapter thirty-two. It’s apparent he had been present all along, but he held his peace because he believed Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar were older and wiser than he was. *“I am young in years, and you are old; that is why I was fearful, not daring to tell you what I know”* (Job 32:6 NIV).

After hearing the long and meaningless discourses of Job’s three older friends, Elihu suddenly felt emboldened to speak: *“It is the spirit in a person, the breath of the Almighty, that gives them understanding. It is not only the old who are wise... Therefore I say: Listen to me; I too will tell you what I know”* (Job 32:8-10 NIV). Then he spoke nonstop for the next six chapters. He no longer saw himself as a loser in the game of comparison. Feelings of inferiority are generated by comparing yourself with others. Or you go to the other extreme and finish up with a sense of superiority. That’s why you should never play the comparison game.

Question: Can you recall a time when you felt so inadequate that you kept quiet and refused to speak up, even though you had a worthwhile thought or idea? You must realise that it is not your ability that determines your success, but *“the breath of the Almighty, that gives [you] understanding.”*

The secret of success is drawing daily on God’s enabling power. When you become persuaded of this truth, you will be able to take on new levels of risk and responsibility without fear of failure.

*(Reflection from vision.org.au website – The Word for Today reading, 1 April 2026) The Word for Today is authored by Bob and Debby Gass and published under licence from UCB International Copyright 2026)*

