

Link



Pastoral Notes / Prayer Points

- ❖ *Pray for our Ministers, Pastors and congregations as they prepare for Advent and Christmas services*
- ❖ *Carpentaria Presbytery Advent Appeal for Kennedy Patrol will run from 24 Nov to 29 December 2024*
- ❖ *To subscribe to Uniting News: Click the link [here](#) and add your details.*

Presbytery Office NEW

Postal Address

PO Box 6071
 Mackay MC Qld 4741
NEW NO: 0459 544 507

NEW Office Hours

Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri
9.00am-3.30pm

Executive Assistant

Ana Mila (Secretary)
NEW OFFICE NO: 0459 544 507
office@ucacarpentaria.com.au

Presbytery Minister Rural (Supply) (based in Northern Zone)

Rev Craig Mischewski (Deputy Chairperson)
 0400 036 630
cjmisch@gmail.com

Presbytery Minister Pastoral & Coastal (based in Southern Zone)

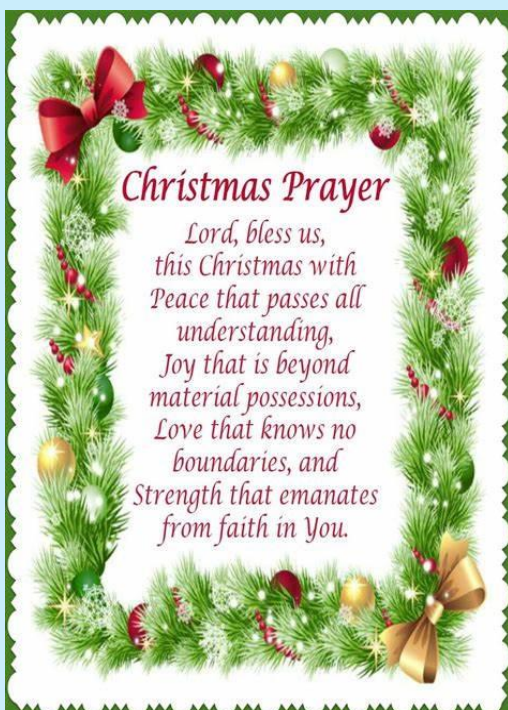
Rev Christy Allen (Chairperson)
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Presbytery Administrator

Robyn Cooley (Treasurer)
 0429 195 506
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CARPENTARIA PRESBYTERY OFFICE CLOSING DATES DURING CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR

20 December 2024 to 13 January 2025



Carpentaria News...

Christmas Greeting from Christy...

From a young age I have always been drawn to the Christmas season. Not because of the presents or even the food which is spectacular! What I love the most about this time of year is the story of Christmas. Scripture takes us into the lives and communities of Elizabeth, Zachariah, Mary, Joseph, Simeon and Anna just to name a few.

I love the journey that each person takes, the wonder they each experience as they begin to understand what is being asked of them. But perhaps my most loved verses are towards the end of the narratives and that is after the shepherds visit Mary. Luke writes *“and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had been told them.”*

As a ponderer myself, I can only imagine what Mary wanted to ponder on. There is not enough space here to name all the things that come to mind. I think the bigger question for us to consider is this... What do we think about this time of year? Do we spend enough time glorifying and praising God for all we have been told?

Even with all the Christmas' that I have under my belt, I am still forever in wonder at what happened and what God gave to the world. With this child came so much, far more than a bit of sparkle and few good stories to remember. In this moment, we are given such a pure unequivocal sign of God's love for all people.

Some of you will go deep this year with your pondering, exploring theological thoughts, experiences and new perspectives as you consider anew the message of Christmas. Others may not go so deep and will simply sit with treasured memories of all that you have seen and heard.

Whatever thinking, remembering, learning you do this Christmas season, may it be filled with the hope, peace, joy and love of God. May you know deep within you that you are a loved child of God. May your homes and your lives be filled with hope, peace, joy and love.

To all, on behalf of the Presbytery Leadership Team and their families to yours...

Blessings to you this Christmas season.



TRAINING OPPORTUNITY IN 2025

As previously advertised the first training opportunity for 2025 will be held in Cairns from the 27 February – 2 March. This training is for any pastors or ordained person who would like to do a refresher or get a much better understanding of the church and its practice as well as any lay person including those doing lay preachers training.

The options on offer will be...

- Basis of Union
- Worship Planning
- Sacraments
- Church Council Essentials
- Discipleship

Can you please indicate which of these you are interested in attending. You can attend all if you wish. Please send your choices to the presbytery office (office@ucacarpentaria.com.au) and these will be collated to determine interest, timetable and venue.

Christy Allen

DATE CLAIMERS

2024 Dates

- **18th December** – Final 'Links'
- **16 Dec 2024 to 10 Jan 2025** – Ana on Leave
- **20 December 2024 to 13 January 2025** – Carpentaria Presbytery Office Closed

2025 Dates

- **1-19 January 2025** – Christy on Leave
- **27-31 January** – Budget & Strategic meetings in Cairns
- **28-30 March** – #1 Presbytery Meeting in Cairns at Cairns Emmanuel
- **16-19 May** – 38th Synod in Session at Alex Park
- **10-11 August** – PLT (face to face) at Ingham or Innisfail
- **11-14 August** – Presbytery Retreat at Cardwell starting with dinner
- **31 Oct to 2 November** - #2 Presbytery Meeting in Townsville at Mount Louisa Community Church
- **3-5 November** – Strategic Meeting (face to face) in Townsville (tbc)

The Devil is in the detail (a reminder to church councils):

Each church congregation is registered with the ACNC (Australian Charities and Not-for-profits commission) as a charity.

Being registered as a charity gives you several tax exemptions, particularly when it comes to GST.

However, to ***maintain registration***, you are required to:

1. report your financial position **each** year AND
2. update your responsible people **every time** there is a **change**.

When you update your changes, you must provide the following:

- **'Change of Key person bulk form'**
 - listing the 'new' people and the required details
 - listing the people to be removed – check the ACNC listing for who they have as your responsible people.
- The minutes from your church council or congregation meeting where you have noted the approved / elected changes.
- The above items (change of key person form and minutes of meeting) need to be sent to both the Presbytery office and the governance team at the Synod office governance@ucaqld.com.au
- The governance team will upload those changes to the ACNC, if they usually report to the ACNC on your behalf.

What happens if you do not keep this information up to date?

- a) **Bank signatory changes** – banks check that the responsible people they have on file matches to the ACNC / ATO records. If these are found to be different, you may have difficulty making changes.
- b) **Opening a new bank account** – banks check that the information in your minutes matches the ACNC / ATO records. The opening of a bank account will be delayed until this information is corrected.
- c) **Seeking assistance from the ATO regarding GST or BAS** – if your responsible people have not been updated, the person on the phone at the ATO will not be able to help someone who is not listed as a responsible person.

Robyn Cooley

UnitingCare Christmas Appeal



Supporting the Families & Disability Services (FaDS) families in need this Christmas.

Donate today and help UnitingCare purchase food, gifts, and other basic essentials to bring joy and hope to people experiencing hardship. After another really tough year, your gift is a reminder that there are people out there who care and are ready to support them as they keep working towards a better future.

To donate go to website: <https://give.unitingcareqld.com.au/> or call 1800 411 660

From The Word for Today...

A heart for others

'Blessed is he who considers the poor; the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble.' Psalm 41:1
NKJV

On December 18, 1933, a curious ad appeared in a Canton, Ohio, newspaper: 'Man Who Felt Depression's Sting to Help 75 Unfortunate Families. Anonymous Giver Known only as "B. Virdot", posts \$750 to Spread Christmas Cheer.' All the reader had to do was describe their plight in a letter and mail it care of 'general delivery'. The appeals poured in. Oddly, no one knew a 'B. Virdot', and people wondered if such a person even existed. Then within a week, cheques began arriving in homes all over the area. Most were modest, about five dollars, and all were signed 'B. Virdot'. Throughout the ensuing years as the story was told, the identity of the philanthropist remained unknown.

Then in 2008, long after his death, his grandson opened a tattered black suitcase collecting dust in his parent's attic. That's when they found the letters dated December 1933, along with 150 cancelled cheques. Turns out that B. Virdot was really Samuel J. Stone, and the pseudonym was a hybrid of Barbara, Virginia, and Dorothy, the names of his daughters. Interestingly, there was nothing privileged about Sam Stone. He was fifteen when his family emigrated from Romania and settled in a Pittsburgh ghetto. Sam's father hid his shoes so he couldn't go to school, forcing him and his six siblings to roll cigars in the attic. Eventually, Sam left home to work on a barge and then in a coal mine. By the time the Great Depression hit he owned a small chain of clothing stores and lived in relative comfort. Nevertheless, he had a heart for others – and his actions proved it. Can that be said about you?

(Reflection from vision.org.au website – The Word for Today reading, 18 December 2024) The Word for Today is authored by Bob and Debby Gass and published under licence from UCB International Copyright 2024

