

Link



Pastoral Notes / Prayer Points

- ❖ *Christy on leave until 20th January*
- ❖ *Ana will be on leave from 20th Jan to 3 Feb*
- ❖ *Congregations lookout for reminders from Protecht re asbestos reports*
- ❖ *Deadline for any changes to reps to 38th Synod in May is due before 31st Jan*
- ❖ *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)
 0418 184 834
presmincoastal@ucacarpentaria.com.au

Presbytery Administrator **Robyn Cooley (Treasurer)**

0429 195 506
admin@ucacarpentaria.com.au

Prayer For The New Year

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the year that has passed and the many blessings You have showered us in time.

We beg your pardon in our many failings and trespasses and we pray that the coming year be a more fruitful one.

We earnestly pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit and we call upon our Lord Jesus Christ for His intercessions, His guidance and His light to shine our path.

Read the full prayer @ christianst.com

REMINDER RE CARPENTARIA PRESBYTERY MEETING IN CAIRNS

28-30 March 2025

Venue: Cairns Emmanuel UCA

(Information will be sent out in due course)

Carpentaria News...

New Year Greeting from Craig...

The surprise of the new year

In Luke Jesus begins his public ministry with a very short sermon. He picked up the scroll of Isaiah and read this,

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed” (Luke 4:18 ESVi)

And then he said, “This scripture had been fulfilled in your hearing.”

This must have come as a big surprise to those listening because he was in his home town in his local synagogue. He is Jesus, Joseph and Mary's son saying he is the fulfilment of scripture, not what they were expecting. But this is Jesus, doing the unexpected as normal. Jesus still does that today, just when we think we have a handle on our beliefs Jesus comes along and does something unexpected to rattle our cages.

There's a really good reason for this and it's spelled out in the text he read. Jesus is here to give sight, to give capacity and to bring liberty. In order for those things to be a reality in our lives we have to acknowledge that we are in fact blind to much of Gods will, we are incapacitated by limited understanding and imprisoned by our cultural and social training.

Why do I say this? Our human minds are quite small and God is infinitely big and it is only by God's revelation that we come to understand God, this requires us to step outside of our limited thinking to grasp the wonder of God and this experience brings sight, capacity and liberty.

This is pretty radical and requires us to be surprised, challenged and astounded. Jesus is still in the business of surprising us but it's for our benefit if we are to grasp the Kingdom of Heaven. So I really hope this new year is full of surprises for you and you have heaps of aha moments.

God bless you as you press into whatever God has in store for you.



REMINDER RE 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

2025 Dates

- **1-19 January 2025** – Christy on Leave
- **20 Jan – 3 Feb** – Ana on Leave
- **27-31 January** – Budget & Strategic meetings in Cairns
- **31 January** – 38th Synod Presbytery Roll is due and any changes are required before 31st Jan
- **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)

Trinity College Qld Prepare Enrich and UCA Celebrant Training

Trinity College Qld Prepare Enrich and UCA Celebrant Training.

In the celebrant training:

- Feb 11 - is the Legal Aspects of Marriage
- Feb 18 - is the Theology of Marriage in the UCA

- Feb 25 - is the Practice of doing the ceremony

People can just come to one or two of these - whichever they want to brush up on.

The link for all this is here - <https://www.trinity.qld.edu.au/events/>



TRINITY COLLEGE QUEENSLAND PREPARE  ENRICH

PREPARE/ENRICH TRAINING

Become a Registered Prepare/Enrich Trainer and master the tools to help couples strengthen their relationships. This training is invaluable for counsellors and marriage celebrants, offering a structured framework for assessing relationship dynamics and delivering effective premarital counselling.

FACILITATOR:
Rev. Paul Clark
Acting Dean of Formation at Trinity College QLD

4 FEBRUARY 2025
9:30AM - 3:30PM MORNING TEA AND LUNCH INCLUDED
ONLINE AND ONSITE
COURSE FEE \$250



ENROL TODAY
Via QR code or visit:
[trinity.qld.edu.au/events](https://www.trinity.qld.edu.au/events)



TRINITY COLLEGE QUEENSLAND  The Uniting Church in Australia QUEENSLAND SYNOD

SHORT COURSE UCA CELEBRANT TRAINING

Join us for this free short course to train as a UCA Wedding Celebrant, which will be facilitated by Rev. Paul Clark. The course will take place over three Tuesday mornings.

FACILITATOR:
Rev. Paul Clark
Acting Dean of Formation at Trinity College QLD

FEBRUARY 11, 18 & 25
9:30AM - 11:30AM MORNING TEA INCLUDED
ONLINE AND ONSITE



REGISTER FOR FREE
Via QR code or visit:
[trinity.qld.edu.au/events](https://www.trinity.qld.edu.au/events)



*Rev Paul Clark
Acting Dean of Formation, Trinity College Qld*

NAIDOC Local Grant Opportunity

A NAIDOC local grant opportunity will be available and you will have to apply through the Property Trust.

Current Grant Opportunity View - GO7452: GrantConnect

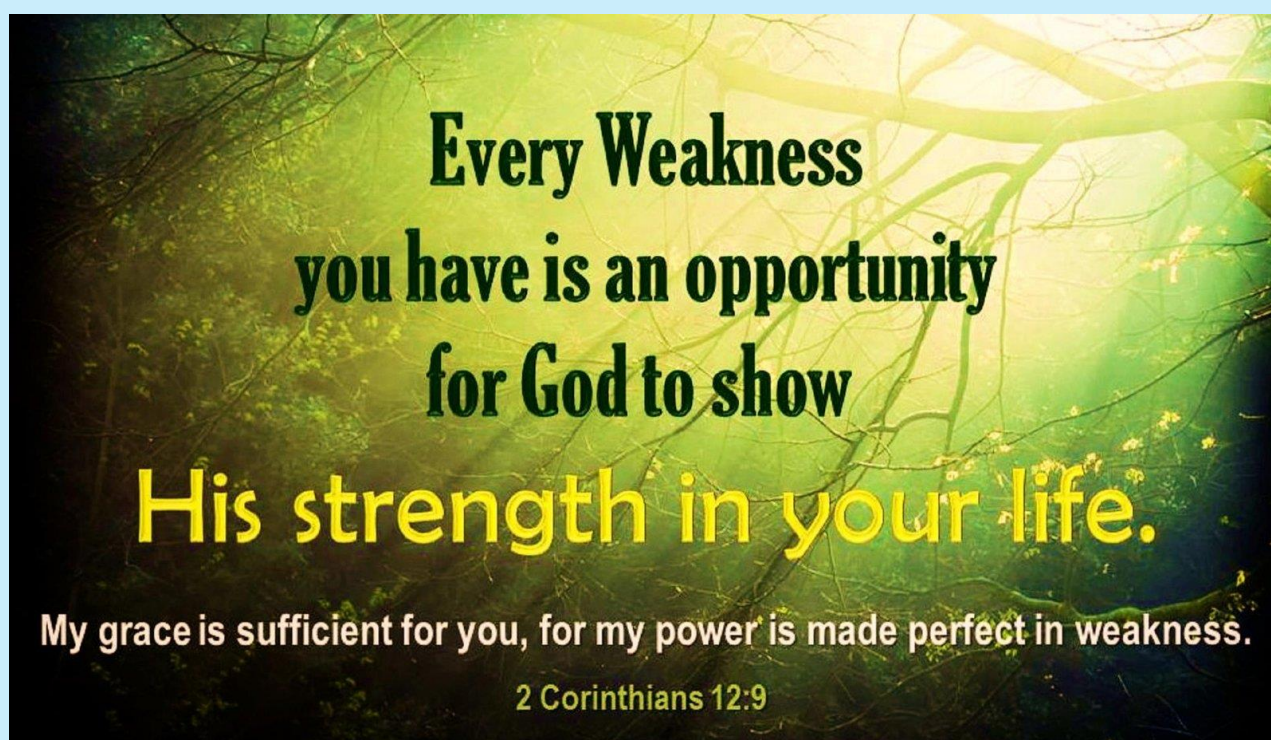
<https://www.grants.gov.au/Go/Show?GoUuid=77a22a8e-6fb5-4fb3-8626-f0cf973d8435>

[Current Grant Opportunity View - GO7452: GrantConnect](#)

The NAIDOC Local Grants provide a co-contribution to the cost of activities and events being held around National NAIDOC Week (6 to 13 July 2025) that celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures, achievements and continuing contributions to our country and Australian society. Activities and events should align with the annual National NAIDOC Week theme The Next ...

www.grants.gov.au

Vanessa Griffiths
Synod Fundraising Manager



From The Word for Today...

God is at work

'Everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.' Philipians 3:8 NLT

The experiences you had before you committed your life to Christ, including things you regret, can be redeemed, and put to good use. Before Paul met Christ on the Damascus road, his life had been dedicated to the study of Old Testament law. '... I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault' (Philipians 3:5-6 NLT). Looking back, Paul may have considered his years of study as a Pharisee to be wasted. But God had prepared him to show the Jews how Christ was the fulfilment of the Old Testament Scriptures he knew so well.

It's easy to fall into the trap of thinking that God doesn't begin working in our lives until the day we come to know Christ as Saviour. Scripture says that He 'foreknew' us, meaning He chose and prepared us long before we ever met Him (see Romans 8:29-30). David says that God wrote out all the days of his life before they ever came to pass (see Psalm 139:16), and that's true for you. God is at work in your life in ways you're unaware of.

Even when you're unable to notice Him at work, He is always active in you, causing His good pleasure. 'For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure' (Philipians 2:13 NKJV). Faith changes the question 'Is God at work?' into a declarative statement of faith: 'God is at work!'

(Reflection from vision.org.au website – The Word for Today reading, 15 January 2024) The Word for Today is authored by Bob and Debby Gass and published under licence from UCB International Copyright 2025

