

MARCH/APRIL 2019

***Mackay Street
Chaplaincy
Monthly
Newsletter***



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A Note from Niki

They say the day was dark. It was the day we came to know as Good Friday.

Things looked pretty grim on that day and I take heart that, an aside message to us (other than the obvious story of salvation), is that when things look grim the story is not yet finished.

As we enter this time of Easter, I'm reminded of the sacrifice that Jesus made for humanity. He laid down his life. We hear and make those kinds of statements but I wonder if the average person on the street knows what all this Easter story means. For starters; why do we call the day that Jesus died, "Good"?

This year Easter falls very close to ANZAC day, where we also hear about people laying down their life. They, and Jesus, laid down their life for a specific purpose; so that we could live.

While some may believe Jesus to be a myth, the fact is that he is written about by non-Christian historians and in such a way that assumed his reality – i.e. they had no doubt. However, only Christians speak about Jesus dying to bring us life. Our Christian writers tell us that Jesus not only died, but on the third day (Easter Sunday), He rose from the dead. The resurrection is what makes all the difference, and the life that Jesus brings us is eternal life.

The resurrection however, could not happen without Good Friday.... that dark day when all seemed lost.

We came to understand that it was on that dark day that Jesus willingly paid a spiritual penalty for a crime that was not his. This is fabulously explained by C.S. Lewis's in his story, *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*, but firstly explained in Old Testament writings where the community would speak the crimes of the community over an animal to be sacrificed. These ancient people then could come close to God, as their sins were considered to be transferred, and they were free. The animal paid the price for them.

This same imagery is used to explain the sacrifice of Jesus. When it comes to the resurrection, however, I love the way this is told in the C.S. Lewis story, about a deeper law of what happens when the innocent willingly gives their life to pay for the crime, then something wonderful happens... The Resurrection!

Friday is "Good" because it is the forgiveness of all our iniquities. I always feel that there is a spiritual stillness each Good Friday. It is as if all creation remembers and pays homage to the sacrifice.

That sacrifice is finished, but the story isn't. The resurrection is just around the corner.

We live our lives in-between. We are a post resurrection people who sometimes feel like we are right back there under a dark cloud. Take heart.... It has been accomplished and Sunday is on its way.

Many Blessings for your Holy Paschal (Easter) season.
Niki (M.S.C. President.)

NEWS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS -

From Helen Hewitt, our committee member and purchasing officer.

Last weekend I had the pleasure of travelling with Niki and her mother, Gloria, to Townsville. On Sunday night we witnessed the momentous occasion of the new Bishop being sworn into his new role at St. James Anglican Cathedral, where Niki officiated by his side in her role of deacon, also reading from the Gospel. A very proud occasion for her Mother and myself.

I was quite awestruck by the whole ceremony. We met up with Ann and Keith who have reached the halfway mark of their role in Innisfail. Lots of lovely Mackay people also travelled for the occasion.



KEITH WITH THE BISHOP



Rob's Recital:

Blokes Brekky 05/04/19

I had the privilege to attend the inaugural Blokes Brekky held at Harrup Park last Friday. There were representatives from the local Grapevine group, many workplaces were represented and two speakers that really drove home the message about Mental Illness and Suicide ideation.

The main message I got from the mornings presentation was communication, not only making the person who has some troubles feel comfortable expressing themselves but also us as third parties checking in on our friend, Families and loved ones. A rising AFL star and an everyday type of bloke who spoke about their turbulent times and their own attempts at Suicide and the function room was amazed at their courage and strength to come back from adversity and difficult times. The key was to be able to communicate freely and as a two way street. Becoming a more loving and caring society as a whole and eliminating the statistics of * Suicide completions a week. We as a community service organisation are

certainly doing our share of looking after our fellow human beings and I congratulate each and every one of the Mackay Street Chaplaincy team for what you do.

We all do such a good job of looking after everyone else I fear for some of us we forget to look after ourselves. Take care of others, yes but be sure to take care of yourself, express how you feel and if you are finding things difficult.

Take care of yourself and most of all be kind to yourself as most often our hardest critics can be ourselves.

Let's keep doing the great work we are doing.

Rob Kerruish

MSC Vice President.

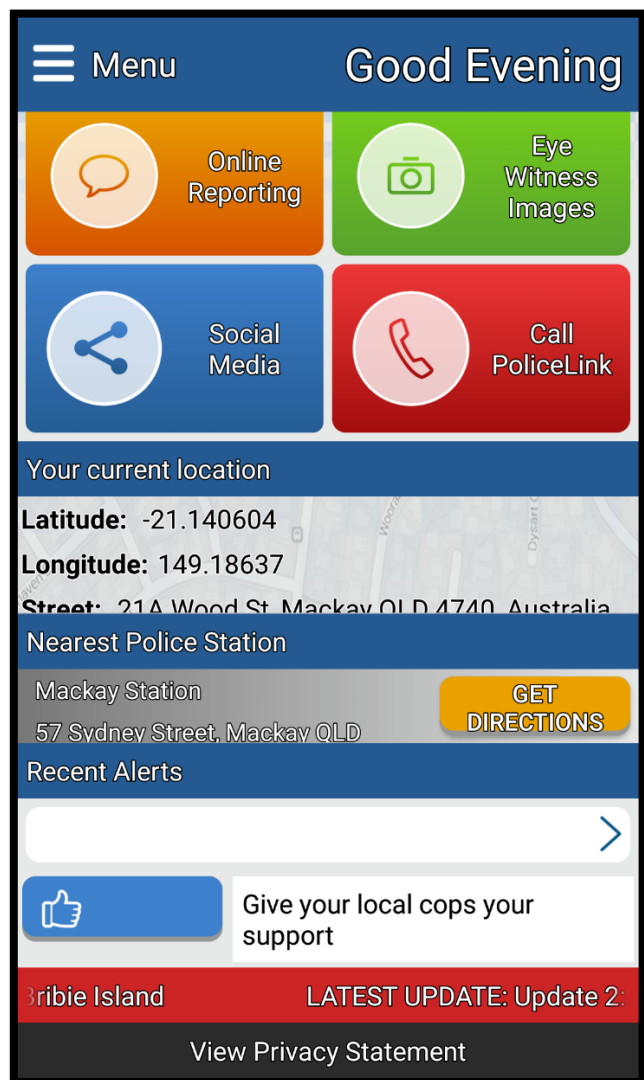


MEETING NOTICE!

Our May meeting will be 6th of May at 6:30pm. Gerri who teaches us some practical self defence will be our guest presenter.

In March we had Nigel Dalton tell us about drugs and alcohol and though I've listened to his session numerous times, each time I learn something new. There are always new insights and recommendations. One recommendation was an app. This is the Policelink app. Do you know the number for Policelink and when we use this number on the street instead of calling 000? If not, please ask your team leader when you are next on shift.

Do you know that as a Street Chaplain we are expected to attend monthly meetings? There is an expectation that we will refresh and up-date our initial training. Even as an experienced there is a need to be at our monthly meetings. The benefits are for us, our team and our new trainees. We need the insights and shared wisdom of all.



Please invite friends who you think may like to join Street Chaplaincy to come along to our training meetings.

ON the STREET...

Communications with the new radio are going well.

Some altered shift times can be expected for Easter weekend.

NB;

Most Chaplains would have now encountered our new radio which remains at the tent base. This radio is linked to the venue, security personal and patrolling police. Police have advised that if an incidence occurs still make 000 your first call, but at the same time the

2nd Chaplain can make the call over the radio in the hope that this will result in quicker action.

NEWS & INFORMATION

- **PRAYER:** Wednesday's at the Den. All are welcome to join this very short prayer meeting which goes from 11:30am – 12 midday.
- **Prayer points-** There are many who are unwell or experiencing issues of ill health etc, in their families, and need our prayers.
- **Chat about Chaplaincy** – If your church or community group would like to hear more about Street Chaplaincy, we would be very

keen to come and chat, showing pictures of our work on the streets.... We love to share.

- **Contemplative Meditation:** being suspended until further notice.
- **Chaplain's Monthly Meeting:** May 6th at 6:30pm. Self-Protection with Gerri. Our June meeting will be with Andrea from Mackay Sexual Health.
- **Chaplaincy T-Shirts** are available for \$15 at the Den in a pink box (ask your team leader).

PLEASE pass this Newsletter on to your churches and people who you think might be interested.



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