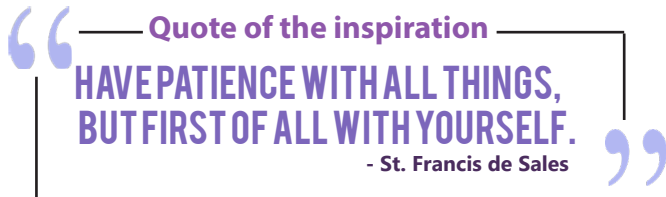




# NORTHERN SYNOD E-NEWS



## A new way to communicate

Greetings in Christ,

I hope you are ok. Last year was a difficult year indeed with the pandemic, and it is not over yet. Please exercise your duty of care by looking after each other and follow the governments and health officials advice. We keep all families in our prayers.

Starting this week in the month of March 2021, you receive our first fortnightly Uniting Church Northern Synod E- News. Its purpose is to give you news and stories. We are planning to provide you this news update and soon we will have video clips, interviews, worship services, key church events on-line either live or pre-recorded for your viewing.

The plan is to only produce one print magazine in December each year so this E-News will provide all the required updates. The E-News will list dates of meetings and significant events and announcements in the life and ministry of the church. Please send your news and stories to Liusem Mauboy. The Media Team is responsible for the information on the E-News. Our hope is that this new initiative will help you to know more about your church mission.

Please share this E-News with others.

Thank you,

Rev Haloti Kailahi  
General Secretary



## Dates & Events

- Lent 17 March - 3 April 2021
- PPNA Meeting 15 - 16 April
- NRCC Meeting 15 - 16 April
- Assembly 17 - 18 July
- Synod 4 - 9 October

## FACT SQUARE

**Violet is the colour of Lent.**

**Why violet? The colour is connected to mourning and royalty; celebrating Christ's resurrection.**

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/life-style/02/22/12/10-interesting-facts-about-lent>

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## Time for Everything

### From the Mod

How great is God's love for us! His love can make us enjoy the new days and months in the new year too. Each of us certainly has a lot of things to do. We can learn from the successes and failures of the past year, including our faith. It becomes a record, and our hope is, of course, a change in our life of faith which is growing towards Christ.

Time is a gift from God (Ecclesiastes 3). God gave us time as an opportunity, to become aware of their limitations. This is a sign for each of us believers to live the best we can, serving Him sincerely with respect and fear of God. When we use the time of God's grace properly, we are managing our hearts and minds to remain faithful and to walk in His righteousness.

Blessings,  
Rev Thresi Mauboy



**"Thank you for the time that God still entrusts and gives us.**

**Thanks for the grace that we always receive, Father, give us a heart that always loves You and teach us to always use it wisely and always live in fear of You.**

**Use and make us instruments for Your glory, so that Your name will be more glorified through our life and ministry."**

**Amen**



Every Wednesday morning at 10am we are joining in prayer. Members and friends of the Northern Synod are very welcome to join in, either face-to-face by coming to the Synod Office in Parap, or via zoom.

Please feel free email Jemma Whittaker at [jemma.whittaker@ns.uca.org.au](mailto:jemma.whittaker@ns.uca.org.au)

## In case you missed it



January 25 - #ChangeTheHeart

This year the Northern Synod opened its doors and gathered together to tune in to Common Graces #ChangeTheHeart service.

Congregations were able to stand together despite separated by the vast spaces that is Australia.

February 21 - Testify

Once again, Testify has begun!

The very first Testify this year had the theme of "Choose your adventure" and as the name suggests those who attended were able to choose from 32 different stations.

This included stations such as Taize singing to walking in Nightcliff Uniting Church's famous labyrinth.

*(Testify is a youth service organized and run by the youthful members of the Uniting Church here in the Northern Synod.)*

*Testify* CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE®

YOUNG PEOPLE ARE THE STARS OF THE STORY!  
CHOOSE FROM 32 POSSIBLE STATION COMBINATIONS (DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS? COME ALONG AND FIND OUT!)

**NIGHTCLIFF UNITING CHURCH**

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 21<sup>ST</sup> 6PM

\$5 DONATION FOR SHARED DINNER



EMAIL [jemma.willaker@ns.uca.org.au](mailto:jemma.willaker@ns.uca.org.au) FOR MORE INFO



Lent Event: together on the journey

Lent has now begun! Thank you for the enthusiastic support of UnitingWorld's new Global Neighbours Bible Study series!

Did you know, every dollar we raise from the printed Studies is invested back into the community projects you're supporting through Lent Event this year? Find your studies (\$5/ printed copy or free download), ideas about what to give up or take up and creative fundraisers to support at [lentevent.com.au](http://lentevent.com.au).



### Through faith we gather

On the 7th March, the local Fijian community gathered to worship together as the Katherine Faith community. The members voiced their excitement and joy to connect with the NRCC, and in future, have stronger connections with first peoples in Katherine.

The Moderator shared in the first communion of the faith community. As the bread was broken, the Holy Spirit moved to fill the YMCA space.







The night before, the Moderator, General Secretary, NRCC Presbytery Minister, and NRCC Chairperson were invited to the home of Jona Loto. Here they sat down and participated in Fijian traditions.

Some of the members were moved to tears as this marks the possibility of once again having a congregation in Katherine.



## COVID Vaccine Roll - Out

From Monday 22 February 2021, COVID-19 vaccinations will begin in Australia.

Beginning in February, the vaccine will be given to those who need it the most first. The phases will be:

### **Phase 1a**

- Quarantine and border workers
- Frontline at-risk health care workers, including staff in GP respiratory clinics and COVID-19 testing facilities, ambulance staff, paramedics, ICU and emergency department staff, and clinical and ancillary support staff
- Residential aged care and disability care staff
- Residential aged care and disability care residents and their carers.

### **Phase 2b**

- Adults over 70 years
- All other health care workers
- Begin vaccinating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults
- People with an underlying medical condition, including those with a disability
- Critical and high-risk workers including defence, police, fire, emergency services and meat processing workers.

### **Phase 2a**

- Adults over 50 years
- Continue vaccinating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults
- Other critical and high risk workers.

### **Phase 2b**

Remaining people over 16 years

Catch up any unvaccinated Australians from previous phases.

### **Phase 3**

People under 16 years if recommended





## Ministry Opportunities

### Northern Synod

#### ***- Pilgrim Presbytery of Northern Australia - Presbytery Minister***

(More information may be found on the Northern Synod website in Vacancies.)

You may also contact **[helen.paine@ns.uca.org.au](mailto:helen.paine@ns.uca.org.au)**

### Wider Church

#### ***- Expressions of Interest: Bush Chaplain – Bushfire Recovery, Presbytery of Gippsland.***

In response to the bushfires of 2019-20, the Presbytery of Gippsland, in association with Frontier Services, is seeking a bush chaplain to work with fire-affected communities for a period of 3 years full-time.

We are looking for someone with a love for the bush and rural communities who can work in isolated areas as part of a Uniting Church ministry team, with training and skills in spiritual and pastoral care and the capacity to develop networks for referral.

For more information, contact Deb Bye at [sec.ucagipps@gmail.com](mailto:sec.ucagipps@gmail.com) by Friday 19th March 2021.

#### ***- Uniting Care Campaign Engagement Officer***

(More information may be found on the Northern Synod website in Vacancies.)

“We are seeking a highly motivated individual with appropriate skills to take the campaign to the Uniting Church community and ensure this campaign is successful.”

## Contact

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## From the Media team

Greetings everyone in the name of Christ!

Welcome to the first issue of the Northern Synod E-News! A new way to communicate in the Northern Synod.

By presenting this news digitally, this means that you, the Northern Synod, will be more frequently updated. At the end of the year, there will still be a short run of printed “Yearly Review” magazines.

Remember, this is all shaped by you! If there is anything you want to see or read, please email me. This can be anything from pictures, stories or advertisements.

I wish you all the best for the year, and may God be with you in all that you do!

Cheers,  
Loui

Liusem Mauboy  
Media & Communications