

MARCH/APRIL 2022

*Mackay Street
Chaplaincy
Monthly
Newsletter*



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Committee News...

On the 7th of March, Mackay Street Chaplaincy held their Annual General Meeting. Those now holding a position on the Committee are; Steven Morgan (President), Niki Vella-Power (Vice-President), Andrea Nicholson (Secretary), Rob Kerruish (Treasurer), Steve Cutting, Helen Hewitt and Lavene Keating.

Immediately following the AGM, the committee held their first meeting. All are aware that there is much work to be done.

At this meeting it was acknowledged again that this will only be a 6-month term as we move to a different financial year to be in line with the July to June that all businesses use.

Our President Steven is aware that his position is precarious due to his health, and he is keen to set the ball in motion, to pass on his knowledge so that Street Chaplaincy can continue in the professional manner for which we always strive. Please keep Steven in your prayers.



(Lavene absent when photo was taken)

A Note from Niki...

It's actually about the lamb!

What is?

Well, there isn't much that gets me hotter under the collar than someone attacking my "Sacred Cows". One of those "Sacred Cows", is the Christian feast days. I'm so very much over the arguments from Christians as well as others, who want to shout that these are actually pagan festivals.

Saint Paul's letter to the Romans tells us, in chapter 14, verse 5 "*One person regards a certain day above the others, while someone else considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. He who observes a special day does so to the Lord; he who eats does so to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he*

who abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God..."

My father is Maltese. About 95% of Malta are devout Catholics and going to church is part of life. Feast days are part of life. They tell the story of our faith and immerse us in the message of the Gospel. We don't just hear the story, but we become involved in it... taking up fasting and prayer as we follow the stories of Jesus as he prepared to die for the sins of the world.

The word, Easter is most certainly tied up in paganism – associated with the goddess of Spring, and yet for centuries it lost that understanding as the Christian church adopted the term with their new understanding that Christ came and died to bring us new life. Yes, Easter is about New Life. As a Christian we know that Jesus brings us New Life. He has brought us from the death of separation from God, to the glorious resurrection and hope for life eternal. We can't possibly see Easter any other way.

Rabbits and Eggs are symbols of abundant life. Modern children have sadly lost out. They don't know Easter the way that I did as a child. We hide the ugliness of Jesus suffering from them, thinking that it is too harsh for them and in doing so, we rob them of a rich and wonderful experience.

So many young people are lost in what they see as the meaninglessness of life ... We have robbed them of knowing the truth about the abundant, eternal life that was bought at a price. They have the symbols of life, but without Jesus it is simply chocolate that melts in the sunshine.

To rejoice in the truth of Easter we perhaps need to adopt the Italian Easter greeting of Buona Pasqua. This word has its foundations in meaning the PASSOVER, referring to the event of the Angel of death passing over the Israelites when they were slaves in Egypt. They were passed over because there was blood from the Passover lamb painted over the doors of their houses. The lamb literally saved them from death and Jesus is our lamb of God – sacrificed to bring us life... TRUE life and abundant life. What can we give in return? Jesus is the innocent lamb who died – BUT he rose

from the grave, proving his divinity. Buona Pasqua ! It's all about the lamb.



ROB'S REMARKS:-

Hi MSC Members,

It is a great new phase of the MSC Committee with a new member and others filling roles they had not filled previously. Although this heralds a new beginning, I have absolute confidence in the abilities of everyone on the committee as we are very fortunate to have such a diverse, confident and capable Membership of Chaplains to get our Committee from. I am so very proud of each and every member we have and the professionalism and the capability of every Chaplain.

The new committee has hit the ground running with 3 of us attending corporate governance workshops and the whole committee involved with the Human Services Quality Framework audit (HSQF) which we passed last time with flying colours. This is a must for any organisation that receives funding, to ensure proper governance and the ability to execute funding money professionally and ethically.

Two major calendar events are on the Horizon with the pinnacle of Christianity , Easter and ANZAC day in the next few weeks.

I would like to wish everyone a happy Easter and a happy ANZAC day in whichever way you choose to mark these two events.

The committee will be doing extra training to ensure we are the best we possible can be and to keep MSC going for many years into the future.

God bless you all,

Rob (MSC Treasurer)

NEWS & INFORMATION



- **Miracles on the Street** – About a month ago, a man presented at the rest and recovery. He seemed subdued and our awesome Chaplain, Tony, asked him if he was doing ok. The man replied, No, not really. He then told us about how he had lost his job due to the covid mandates. He had a wife and kids to support and was quite depressed. At this moment, another man came to us for water and overheard the conversation. This second man then joined in the conversation and explained that he knew where the first man could get a job with his exact qualifications... gave him names and number to call. We believe this is one of the miracles on the street for which we pray.
- **Important meeting - 4th April at 6pm:** Chaplaincy Training Night. This month is the very important Code of Conduct – A conversation about our code and a way to understand just what it means to act ethically, as we do interpret things slightly differently, and we want to explore what it is that is our very best way of operating.
- **HATS!!!!!!** – It has been pointed out by our newest committee member that hats would be a great idea for those occasional daytime events. SO... (drum roll) ...We have purchased some customized hats for such events. These will be available for Chaplains to purchase at half the cost. JUST as the case with our T-Shirts, we expect that Chaplains understand that these are NOT fishing hats but to be worn for their intended purpose, as an extension of our uniform for those events representing Street Chaplaincy.
- **ANZAC March – April 25th** – Chaplains who march this year will be invited to wear our brand new Chaplaincy hat, specifically purchased for these kinds of daytime events.
- **HSQF – May 5th & 6th** - Mackay Street Chaplaincy will be having it's Human Services Quality Framework Audit. If anyone is keen to see some of the standards, you can read up about them by downloading the document found [here:](https://www.dsdsatsip.qld.gov.au/our-work/human-services-quality-framework) <https://www.dsdsatsip.qld.gov.au/our-work/human-services-quality-framework>
- **Volunteers Expo: May 15th, 10am-1pm** at the large shed pavilion at the show grounds. We need new members! This is an amazing opportunity to show the community what we do. Please support the Volunteers Expo so that we can pass on the great adventure that Street Chaplaincy is.
- **Rhythm and the Reef: September 24th** Mackay Street Chaplaincy have been asked to provide their services of water and care, for the 2022 festival of Rhythm and the Reef music festival. a pleasure to meet new people, but also have our role so appreciated. Thank you.
- **Monthly Chaplaincy meetings take place on the first Monday of the month – usually.** We

welcome all interested people. Come along, book in for an observation. We need you on this wonderful adventure with us.

- **MEMBERSHIP ISSUES** - We are very much in need of more Street Chaplains! Please call or email or text Niki (0411732304), to book an observation shift. There is no obligation to join, but it is the first step in discovering if this is a ministry that God is calling you to. Oh... Just so you know - how do you know that God is calling you? You are breathing 😊 .
- Please chat about Chaplaincy and consider asking your church to have us give a promotional chat during a service.
- **PRAYER: NEW TIME** – Remember Wednesday's, at our Street Chaplaincy premise, we meet to pray for just a half an hour. **All are welcome** to join us from 12:30pm – 1pm. People who attend find this to be vital, as it keeps us focused on what we are doing and why. It keeps us motivated and checks that our attitudes reflect the heart of God. We pray for the heart of our city, those that work there and with us. Please join us.
- CHAPLAINS have been sporting **new shirts!** I personally have really enjoyed the more striking look and cooler feel – especially over the extended hotter months we seem to have had this year.

- **HATS** – For those occasions when we have a daytime activity. As always, something to be worn when representing MSC – not fishing 😊 **The hats are available for Chaplains to purchase at a fraction of the cost, as the organisation will subsidize. Please see a committee member for details.**



- **AIR CON & LEAKING ROOF-**
-Thank you to all chaplains for your patience with these matters. We have been without air-conditioning since December 2021 and still no word on when this will be rectified. I can assure you that more than one member of the committee has personally made phone calls to try to hurry this process along, but for all our effort we seem to be getting nowhere. It is most frustrating, but we will continue to follow up. A special thank to Rob who has borne most of this as well as sorting out our van issues. Many thanks to David A. also for his efforts and time spent with this. We may not be many in number, but we certainly do have some great people.

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



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