

**2014 OPENING OF LAW YEAR CHURCH SERVICE
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH CAIRNS**

Welcome Address – 14 July 2014

By The Honourable Justice Henry

I express the gratitude of the legal profession to the array of clergy and other representatives of faiths and other community institutions who have this morning joined us in marking this special event in the annual legal calendar.

Our profession, the legal profession, has since the Middle Ages, taken the time around the notional start of each law year to mark the advent of a new law year with a church service. I say notional because its timing is nowadays largely determined by the stage of the year when our regalia will not overheat us. Be that as it may, this service presents an annual opportunity for spiritual reflection by members of our profession, whatever our varying spiritual beliefs may be.

I hope today's touching ceremony in this peaceful place has also allowed each of us, in our way, to pause and reflect and draw inspiration for our individual commitment to that timeless goal of the just and ethical administration of the rule of law. The thinking underpinning that righteous goal is consistent with the long held tenets of religious faiths. We have been delighted to share in reflecting on it with members of various religious faiths this morning.

On our profession's behalf I convey my sincere gratitude to Father Menelaos for hosting today's service and for the provision of his congregation's hospitality in the morning tea to follow. Good will to all.