

## **CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S PROJECT COMPASSION DRAWS TO A CLOSE BUT THE SPIRIT OF 'HOPE' PERSISTS**

As Caritas Australia's Annual Lenten Fundraiser Project Compassion draws to an end, the Caritas Australia supporter community gathered to pray, fast and give for the most marginalised.

For Project Compassion 2019, which takes as its theme 'Hope', Caritas Australia highlighted the stories of six people, whose hope and strength in the face of danger, 'keeps us from discouragement; sustains us during abandonment, opens up our hearts and leads us to the happiness that flows from love.'\*

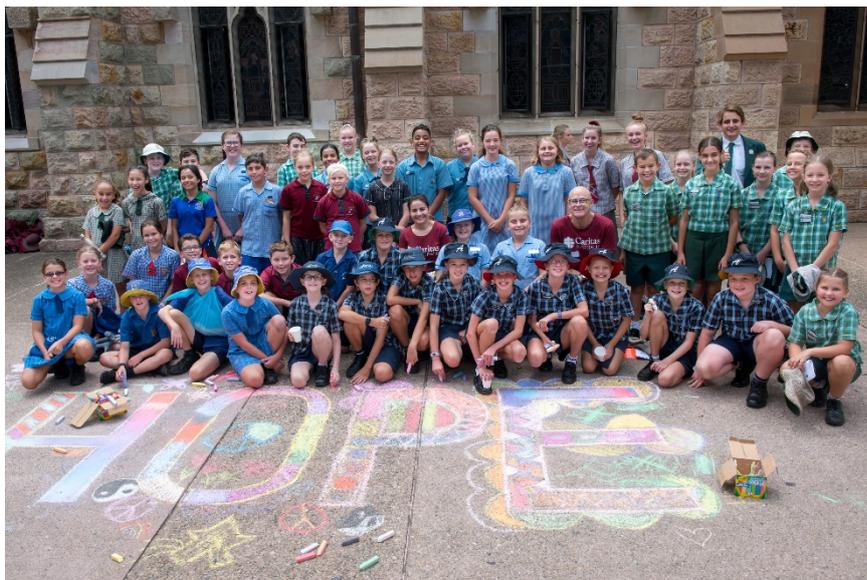
Caritas Australia CEO, Paul O'Callaghan, spoke of the unifying spirit which Project Compassion creates in the nation's Catholic community.

"Project Compassion is a galvanising force in the work of Caritas Australia. This Lent, the theme of 'Hope' is the banner beneath which Catholic community organisations, schools and parishes are gathering to pursue a just world, at peace and free of poverty, where all people live with dignity," said Caritas Australia CEO Paul O'Callaghan.

Across the nation, here are some of the ways that Caritas Australia supporters came together in unity for our community development work across the world.

### **BRISBANE**

In Brisbane, 500 students and teachers celebrated the theme of hope in technicolour. Archbishop



Mark Coleridge launched Project Compassion on March 5 with the reading of a liturgy at St Stephen's Cathedral.

"At the heart of Caritas is a simple philosophy: we help people to help themselves. Since it began in 1965, Project Compassion has been vital to our capacity to fight poverty, tackle injustice and uphold dignity," said Kerry Drysdale, Caritas

Australia's Brisbane based Justice Educator.

*CAPTION: Students come together for Project Compassion at Stephen's Cathedral in Brisbane. Photo: KISS photography*

\* Catechism of the Catholic church, 1818.

## Project Compassion 'Wrap Up' story

### ADELAIDE



Students from St Joseph's, Tranmere, were smiling and filled with 'hope' at launch of Project

Compassion in Adelaide on February 26th. Cynthia Thompson said social justice and ecological issues were "immensely important" for the school and that the 2019 student Just Leadership Team was motivated to promote Project Compassion's theme of 'hope'. A liturgy was led by Father Philip Marshall. Young and old came together at this exciting Project Compassion event in South Australia.

*CAPTION: Students at St Joseph's School Tranmere, Adelaide. Photo: Cynthia Thompson*

### SYDNEY – STUDENTS LEARN HOW WATER ACCESS CHANGES COMMUNITIES

In Sydney Project Compassion kicked off with an immersive educational simulation. A tippy-tap water system was used to show students a common and precious means of water access all across the developing world.



Lenten Speaker Super Dube spoke to students at St Ursula's College in Kingsgrove about how Caritas is working in communities across Zimbabwe to create improved access to water through better infrastructure. After the talk, there was a commissioning ceremony where Caritas Australia's Justice Educator for the Eastern Region and

NSW, Chris Nolan, inspired students to take the 'spirit of Project Compassion' out into the world and the wider community.

\* Catechism of the Catholic church, 1818.

## Project Compassion 'Wrap Up' story

"The students were challenged to be ambassadors within their school communities, using their gifts and resources to promote dignity, raise awareness of injustice and give 100% to change lives," Mr Nolan said

*CAPTION: Students from High Schools around Sydney came to St Ursula's College in Kingsgrove to celebrate the work of Caritas Australia at Project Compassion. Photo: Nicole Clements*

Thank you for your support of Project Compassion, which through investment in the poorest and most marginalised is empowering communities to move forward with a sense of purpose and hope.

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To donate to Project Compassion, or for fundraising ideas, visit [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or call 1800 024 413.