

7 December, 2017

CARITAS CREATES GLOBAL VILLAGE AT THE AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL

"May our communities become islands of mercy in the midst of a sea of indifference." Pope Francis

Caritas Australia, the Catholic Church's international aid and development agency, is proud to be participating in the Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) on 7-9 December in Sydney, where thousands of youth will gather.

The festival, a national gathering of Catholic young people established by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, (ACBC) is aimed at providing young people with opportunities to deepen their faith and to celebrate the vitality of the Church in Australia.

"As followers of Christ we are called to live out our Gospel values. We invite you to visit our spaces and presentations at the Catholic Youth Festival to learn, reflect, pray and take action for our sisters and brothers around the world, many who face poverty and injustice," said Father George Sigamony, Caritas Australia's Community Engagement Manager.

Caritas works with partners across 27 countries across Asia, Africa, the Pacific regions, as well as in Australia, to empower people and communities to eradicate poverty.

Throughout the festival, Caritas will invite students and supporters to explore a world of hope at the Caritas Global Village, located in the Justice Activity Centre in the Dome at Sydney Olympic Park.

You can find out about our work in schools, parishes and the wider community at our Caritas expo stalls, which will include presentations of Caritas programs, our partners, advocacy work and much more.

Students and participants will have the chance to use technology such as virtual reality and augmented reality to see the impact of Caritas programs with their own eyes. There will also be quizzes and role plays. Youth Justice Action journals will be handed out to many who participate, while stocks last!

You can also learn more about how we work with partners in the Asia, Africa, Pacific regions, as well as within Australia. Come and join Caritas' First Australian partners for presentations and yarning circles. Take our guided reflection on the importance of Subsidiarity. Subsidiarity is the belief that every person has a right to participate in decisions that affect their own lives.

In addition, you can find out about Caritas' work in schools, parishes and the wider community at our Caritas Expo stall.

"Guided by compassion, solidarity and hope, we are embedded in the Catholic community through the schools and parishes. We support Catholic students and parishioners to act and work together for a world free from poverty and injustice," said Father George.

"You are the future of a world without poverty. Come join us and journey with us as we celebrate together at the youth festival."

Find out more at <http://www.caritas.org.au/youth>. Follow Caritas Australia on social media #WeAreCaritas or @CaritasAust.

Watch a video featuring planned highlights from the youth festival at bit.ly/WeAreCaritas-ACYF

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