



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life

Dear Friends in Christ,

International Day of People with Disability - 3 December 2017

It is appropriate that we observe and celebrate the International Day of People with Disability as we prepare during the Advent season for the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The theme this year is,

“Transformation towards sustainable and resilient society for all”.

The overarching principle of this theme is to “leave no one behind” and empowers people with disability to be active contributors to society, which includes active participation in our Church and faith communities.

In his address to Government officials this year, Pope Francis stated:

“True development is measured by concern for human beings, who are the heart of all development: concern for their education, health and dignity. The greatness of any nation is revealed in its effective care of society’s most vulnerable members – women, children, the elderly, the sick, the disabled and minorities – lest any person or social group be excluded or marginalised.” (4/28/17, Government Authorities)

As members of the Catholic Church in Australia, are we ensuring that “no one is left behind”?

People with disability and their families have told us that invitation and access to their parishes and faith communities is vital for their full participation in the Church. There is still a need for videos to be captioned and materials be made available in large print and Braille. The Catholic Deaf community in Australia has called for a stronger presence of Auslan interpreters for major diocesan and national events. People with mental health issues have requested a greater role in our Church. When access is provided, everyone is included and no one is left behind.

At the Last Supper, Jesus gave to his disciples the most privileged of names; “I call you friends”. Friendship, which is open and apostolic, leads to the harmony of mutual giving and receiving in times of both joy and sorrow. Friendship welcomes all. We must not forget the great value for real and meaningful friendships with people with disability and their families.

We must accept the call to be communities that gladly welcome people with disability and their families, recognising in all the presence of Christ.

I invite you to consider using the materials and resources available at catholic.org.au/disability to promote and recognise the gifts of people with disability and to celebrate International Day of People with Disability, which is observed on the third day of December each year.

Thank you again for your support in this most important endeavour.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Bishop Terence J Brady,
Bishops’ Delegate for Disability Issues
Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life
Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

PRODUCT LIST

Item	Description	Price *
Beatitudes of Acceptance	Pack of 10 Prayer Card	3.00#
Break Down Barriers *NEW*	Pack of 10 Prayer Card	3.00#
I Am the Vine *NEW*	Pack of 10 Prayer Card	3.00#
I Have a Story	Pastoral Document	2.00
I Have a Story	Large Print Booklet	3.00
I Have a Story	Audio Cassette	10.00
I Have a Story	Braille Book	30.00
Jesus said 'Be Open'	Pack of 10 Prayer Card	3.00#
One Body in Christ	Parish Disability Kit	20.00
One Body in Christ	Pack of 10 Prayer Card	2.00#
One Body in Christ	Music CD (7 tracks)	5.00
Reflection and Response	Guidelines for Parish Communities	2.00
We Have a Story	Full Colour Book	10.00#

* All items are supplied free of Goods and Services Tax and prices do not include postage and handling.

Discounts are available for bulk purchases of these products.

**Please place your order for the new prayer cards at
catholic.org.au/disability.**

**You can browse the full range of products at the ACBC Shop
catholic.org.au/acbc-shop.**

GPO Box 368
CANBERRA ACT 2601

F 02 6247 6083
T 02 6201 9868

disability@catholic.org.au

catholic.org.au/disability