



2nd April 2020

MEDIA RELEASE

The Catholic Diocese offers a helping hand through Careline

The Catholic Diocese of the Bathurst acknowledges that, as a community, we are facing an unprecedented challenge in the wake of COVID-19. Bishop of Bathurst, Michael McKenna asks us to care for our neighbors in this challenging time, as we have that responsibility now more than ever.

“Our unselfish care for one another in these days, especially for those who are suffering most, will be a sign of a truly Eucharistic life,” said Bishop McKenna.

The Diocese understands that vulnerable people, especially the elderly members of our community, need our attention and care at this time. In response to this need, a new program called **Careline**, has been launched in all parishes across the Diocese.

“This is a practical program that aims to connect people who may need a hand with a support network made up of people who can help. It may be as simple as picking up some groceries or a prescription for someone who is housebound; or it may be that the person needs assistance to connect with other agencies such as St Vincent de Paul,” said Bishop McKenna.

“If you know someone who is elderly or in a vulnerable position, who may live alone, those who are self-isolated without any support, or anyone who may just need a chat, or if you are in this position yourself, I urge you to contact Careline and reach out for help,” said the Bishop.

To contact Careline, phone 1800 231 118.

The call will be answered by a Careline adviser who will have a quick chat and take the caller’s details. The Careline team will then arrange for the right support person to contact the caller to make the necessary arrangements to meet the person’s needs.

“Careline will be managed by the Diocesan social welfare agency, Centacare Bathurst, who are well-equipped to coordinate the required response to those in need,” said Bishop McKenna.

For further information, please contact CARELINE on 1800 231 118, email care@centacarebathurst.com.au or visit www.bathurst.catholic.org.au

Ends

Media Contact: For further information, contact Kimbalee Clews, Catholic Diocese of Bathurst on 0407 888 407 or email comms@bathurst.catholic.org.au