

## Caritas Australia launches Project Compassion 2024

Caritas Australia has announced the launch of Project Compassion 2024, its annual Lenten fundraising and awareness appeal. For six weeks schools, Parishes, organisations and individuals are encouraged to donate, as well as walk, swim, cycle or run as part of Caritas Ks, host their own events such as raffles or trivia nights, or give something up for lent. All in the name of compassion in action.

This theme has been drawn from the story of the burning bush in Exodus 3:1-20.

One day, Moses's sheep wander off and he suddenly encounters a bush that is burning but not consumed. God tells Moses that he has heard the cry of his people. God responds to injustice and chooses Moses to speak to Pharaoh. Moses is scared but God promises 'I will be with you.' All the time, God remains a mystery. Moses wants more detail, so God simply says that this is the same God who has been longing for justice for the whole of history: 'By this name I shall be invoked for all future generations.'

As God called Moses, so now God calls us to work 'for all future generations.'

In line with this theme, this year's Project Compassion stories include Ronita, a 22-year-old mother of two in the Philippines. Ronita returned school to complete her education with the help of the Faithful Companions of Jesus, securing a brighter future for her family.

There is also the story of Memory, who was selected by local leaders in her community in Malawi as a candidate for a vocational skills course. She now works for one of Malawi's largest power companies and is a role model and trailblazer for other young women.

Supporters will also hear from Leaia who built her own home from recycled scraps and is better able to care for her five children, and regularly sends them to school, thanks to a new water tank that affords her a consistent water supply.

Kirsty Robertson, Caritas Australia CEO, said, "During Lent, we are invited to take up the call to fast, pray and give alms. From natural disasters to widespread conflict, the events of the past year mean that many communities need your support. Supporting Project Compassion is a way for us to proclaim the faith that is in our hearts and help our sisters and brothers in need."

Those wanting to support Project Compassion can download resources or join a Mission in Action Webinar to learn more about Caritas Australia's development programs at <https://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion>

To donate, look out for the Project Compassion donation boxes, visit the website, or call 1800 024 413 toll free.

**ENDS**

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