



## \$200,000 Appeal to Answer the Call of the Tiwi People for a Resident Priest on Melville Island

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**November 21, 2024**

The Catholic community of Melville Island, one of the Tiwi Islands and Australia's largest island after Tasmania, has made a heartfelt call for a resident priest to return to their shores. Now, an ambitious \$200,000 fundraising appeal is underway to refurbish the presbytery and make this vision a reality.

For years, the faithful community of Melville Island has remained unwavering in their request: "Bring a priest home." The absence of a resident priest has left a gap in spiritual leadership, but the solution is clear—a fully refurbished presbytery that can accommodate a priest and support his mission to serve the Tiwi people.

However, refurbishing the presbytery comes at a cost. With \$200,000 needed to complete this vital project, the Diocese of Darwin, which already manages churches and presbyteries across remote areas, is seeking support from generous individuals, organisations, and communities.

Bishop Charles Gauci emphasised the significance of this initiative:

"This is not just about refurbishing a building; it's about answering the call of the Tiwi people, restoring hope, and providing spiritual leadership that strengthens their vibrant faith community."

Melville Island is home to a deeply Catholic population whose faith is central to their identity and culture. A resident priest will not only minister to their spiritual needs but also foster community cohesion and inspire hope for future generations.

### **How You Can Help**

Donations can be made directly to:

**Bank Account:** Catholic Mission NT

**BSB:** 085-933

**Account Number:** 84406-6747

**Reference:** Melville Island

Every contribution, no matter how small, brings the Tiwi people closer to their dream of a resident priest.

Let's unite to bring a priest back to Melville Island and honour the unwavering faith of its people.

### **For media inquiries, please contact:**

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