

Sign up for ‘The Long Walk for Water’ to support Project Compassion this Lent.

Caritas Australia is calling on individuals, schools, parishes and community groups across the country to sign up for *The Long Walk for Water* challenge ahead of Lent and walk in solidarity with the 703 million people worldwide who still live without safe drinking water.

Launched in 2025 as part of Project Compassion, *The Long Walk for Water* encourages participants to walk daily throughout Lent. However, participants can design a challenge that suits their ability and schedule, perhaps choosing to walk every other day, or for 15 minutes each day.

Caritas Australia CEO Kirsten Sayers encouraged Australians to step into the shoes of those who walk long distances every day for something as basic as water, saying:

“Last year’s launch of The Long Walk for Water showed the extraordinary generosity and solidarity of Australian communities. This year, we’re inviting even more people to join us. Every step taken and every dollar raised helps transform communities through clean water, health, education and sustainable livelihoods.”

Last year Jane, Fran and Julie from the Pastoral Ministry Office in the Ballarat Diocese set a fundraising goal of \$300 for their team challenge. By the end of Lent the group had raised an astonishing \$2,739 - nearly ten times their goal.

The team walked along the Ballarat Lake Wendouree foreshore, rallying colleagues, parishioners and local supporters to contribute. Their unexpected success demonstrated just how much impact a small group can make when they walk with purpose.

Jane said, “We originally thought we’d raise a few hundred dollars, but the response was overwhelming. People really connected with the idea of walking in solidarity. It reminded us that simple actions can have powerful results.”

Funds raised through *The Long Walk for Water* will support Caritas Australia’s programs which include water security initiatives - such as constructing safe wells, installing solar-powered pumps, improving sanitation infrastructure, and supporting local communities to manage and maintain water systems.

With Lent beginning on the 18th of February 2026, Caritas Australia encourages participants to register soon.

To sign up visit: www.projectcompassion.org.au/the-long-walk-for-water

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Media contact: Tara Harvey 0484 002 021 tara.harvey@caritas.org.au or caritasmedia@caritas.org.au