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St Joseph's Church

Oxley Rd & Martindale St, Corinda

Christ the King Church

Churchill St, Graceville

St Joseph's School

28 Clewley St, Corinda

Principal: Maryanne Riley

Ph: (07) 3379 6937

E: pcorinda@bne.catholic.edu.au

W: www.stjoseph.qld.edu.au

Christ the King School

7 Randolph St, Graceville

Principal: Trudy Walsh

Ph: (07) 3379 7872

E: pgraceville@bne.catholic.edu.au

W: www.ckg.qld.edu.au

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

19 Randolph St, Graceville

Director: Anne Delsorte

Ph: (07) 3379 8635

Outside School Hours Care

Clewley St, Corinda

Director: Amanda Kerr

Ph: (07) 3278 5606

Julia Cumming Community Child Care

12 Addison Rd, Graceville

Director: Janice Cowan

Ph: (07) 3379 3069

Brisbane West Deanery

E: bwdeanery@bne.catholic.net.au

W: www.brisbanewestdeanery.com.au

ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGIES



Mass - 7.00pm TUESDAY 5th March - Christ the King

Mass - 8.30am ASH WEDNESDAY 6th March - St Joseph's

Combined Schools Liturgy - 10.00am ASH WEDNESDAY 6th March -
St Joseph's Hall Corinda

The Pastor's Pen....

A couple of things have struck me this past week. Firstly, it's a little over 18 months since I came to Corinda Graceville as your Parish Priest, and secondly, by this time next weekend Lent will have begun and we'll be celebrating the First Sunday of this season of penitence and renewal in preparation for the hope and promise of the Easter feast together.

To the first point, I can say that the last 18 months have flown by for me and that they've been as happy as they've been busy. I've been doing a lot around the Parish such as; visitations and faithful provision of the Sacramental ministry, formation of Parish groups and committees, and compliance with the ever growing requirements demanded of us all so as to minister in these times of ours. The Parish Office Staff has my full support and are giving top service to me and to you. Each have their roles, but they all work co-operatively for the best interests of the majority of parishioners. Of course, no one can please everybody always.

Nursing Homes, retirement places and private homes are being visited, and the sick, house bound and dying are pastorally cared; Parish Liturgy Planning Team, Finance Council, Pastoral Council and Plenary Council Team continue to meet advising and guiding me, protecting and representing the best interests of the whole Parish, its people and resources.

In terms of what you might more readily see and experience (without listing every single thing) we have in these 18 months witnessed the restoration of the pews and the sanctuary at **St. Joseph's Church**, along with new, brighter lighting. The louvres above the doors now work as they were meant to do and several safety requirements have been installed. The gardens look good (thank God for the rain), and the liturgical vessels are fine for their sacred purpose. I would like to investigate better fans for St. Joseph's and have the white tiled roof cleaned, changes which I hope can be achieved this year.

At **Christ the King Church** we have seen the full external painting of this grand old building and some internal painting has been approved, too. A new concrete path was installed and I am in the process of getting rails for the Western ramp and up onto the sanctuary. I hope that this year I am able to advance the floor covering of both the body and sanctuary of this Church. I'm aiming for this later in the year. The sad and unexpected departure of the Presentation Sisters has placed the future use of their Convent higher on my agenda at this time. This matter is complex involving Christ the King School, the whole Parish, and Brisbane Catholic Education. It's currently pressing to find our way through this matter to the benefit of all parties. Again, the surrounds of this Church are fine, and the brighter lights I have had installed help somewhat with the heat and visibility issues.

The **Parish Office** has been brought into full compliance with the ever evolving Workplace Safety laws, a task that has no foreseeable ending. We are in the process of installing more effective cooling for the relatively small office rooms. I will then look to having the white tiled roof cleaned, some painting and patching up of wall cracks and getting the flooring up to scratch. All of this takes time and money so I'll have it staged as to maximise benefits and minimise costs. Expanding the Parish Columbarium for the dignified interment of ashes is also needing attention.

Our two **Parish Schools** are going fine with good enrolment numbers, well developed facilities and excellent staff. They are working in unison with me, the Parish Office staff and our Parish groups to strengthen the Schools' links with, and positive experience of, our Parish Community. This year our Parish Sacramental Preparation Programmes for First Communion, Confirmation and First Reconciliation are more involving of children, parents, families, myself and other parishioners. I, and Melissa Lonergan (Parish Sacramental Co-ordinator), have a firm resolve to evaluate the effectiveness of this approach as the year advances. Indeed, we are refining some matters of these programmes as we progress the implementation of what we have planned.

Continued over page.....

The Pastor's Pen continued

There's a lot going on, more than I've listed on page one, and more than I can remember right now. I want to say what a joy it is for me to work with and serve all of you to the best I'm able.

The second point is the coming of Lent. Our participation in this Season makes Easter, in the sense that the more we involve ourselves in what Lent is about, the more powerful and meaningful will be our Easter experience. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and the Masses and Prayer liturgies offered. I ask you to get off on the best foot with these ceremonies if you possibly can. The liturgy times in our Parish are listed in this Newsletter once again.

Lent hangs on 3 disciplines; **Prayer, Penance and Works of Mercy.**

Prayer is both personal and communal. The personal is largely over to you. The communal involves devotions, prayer groups, participation in the Lenten Programme for this year and your efforts to attend regularly the weekday as well as weekend Masses.

Penance, too, is both personal and communal by its nature. We go without so that others may be our focus benefitting from our sacrifices, while focusing us more on God's will and call. Project Compassion is an important way of giving, but there's more. Making the effort to find and experience the Sacrament of Penance (Confession) is always filled with the grace of God. Ensuring you note and attend the Parish Lenten Mass for the Forgiveness of Sin (7pm Wednesday 10th April at Christ the King Church) with your community is another opportunity to be changed for the better.

Lastly, **works of mercy**, wherein we make the effort to be kind, merciful and generous. We can give our time and talents to help those in need or crisis, joining and supporting the local St. Vincent de Paul Conference and/or contributing to a chosen charity. This means that we see a need and choose to act to help rather than just moving on with our lives. The difference is this; In penance we go without to improve ourselves and thereby better assist others. In works of mercy we go out to help others and thereby become less self-absorbed and the better for the effort we make.

I'll end my sharing here with my heartfelt thanks for all that has been this last year and a half, sharing a prayer with you for all that can be for us in the future.

Fr. Mark Percival. MA, PP.

CATHOLIC PARISH OF CORINDA GRACEVILLE SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Expressions of interest are open for those parents who are considering enrolling their children in the local Catholic Sacramental Program (Confirmation, First Eucharist and Penance).

An information night will be held on **Wednesday, March 27th**, for parents who would like to find out more about our Sacramental Program and the process for enrolling their children in the same.

The 2019-2021 program - run by the Catholic Parish of Corinda Graceville - is for all children who are baptised and have turned 8 years of age by July 1, 2019 (usually Grade 3 children and above), regardless of which school they attend.

The **mandatory** parent information night will be held from **7.00pm at Christ the King Church, Churchill Street, Graceville on Wednesday, March 27th**. If you have yet to do so, to express your interest in attending the information night simply email the Sacramental Program Coordinator at the following address :- sc.corindagraceville@bne.catholic.net.au

Your correspondence will be acknowledged with a confirmation and a copy of the agenda for the evening.

Those who have already expressed interest will be automatically sent the agenda.

Enrolments for the Sacramental program will officially open following the March information session.

Enrolments for the 2019/2021 program will close 27 April, no exceptions.

LENTEN ACTIVITIES:

- **Ash Wednesday Fast AND Abstinence: Abstinence** from meat applies to everyone who has passed his or her fourteenth birthday. There is no upper age limit to abstinence. **Fasting** from food applies to those who have passed their eighteenth birthday. To fast is to eat one full meal and no more than two smaller meals. The obligation ends at the conclusion of one's fifty-ninth birthday.
- **Project Compassion / Caritas:** "Give Lent 100%" is this year's theme for Project Compassion. **Envelope packs and money boxes are available at the doors of each church and near the Sanctuary of each church.**
- **Family Lent Calendar:** is inserted in today's newsletter. Lent is a time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. During Lent do random acts of good and loving deeds to God, family, friends, strangers, and yourself. This simple to use Lent Calendar is designed for families and children. Please take the calendar home and use it.
- **Lenten Program:** Lenten groups should commence meeting THIS WEEK, prior to the First Sunday of Lent. This year's program is entitled "*Compassion*". Participants please pick up booklets and DVD sets from the Parish Office. Cost of books is \$8.00 a copy. If you wish to be part of a group, please speak to Malia Mar or contact Michael at the parish the office. Sr Rita is hosting a **Lenten group at the Corinda Convent** commencing on Wednesday at 10am. Places are available in this group. Please phone the convent on 3379 2919 and leave a message if you wish to be part of the group.
- **Lenten Gospel Reflections** - "Trust" reflection books will be available at the doors of the church. "Trust" includes short daily reflections (from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday) in addition to the longer form Sunday Gospel reflections, spiritual direction, gospel readings, responsorial psalms, prayers and reflection questions. Please pick up a copy and pray the scripture! This resource costs the parish \$5 per copy. If you are able to pay for your copy or make a small donation towards the costs of your copy, please place your offering on in the collection basket at Mass.
- **A Lenten Retreat - Called by Name into Union with Christ and Empowered to Live as Children of the Light.** A retreat for all. Friday 15th March 10am - 1pm at the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Graceville. See page 4.
- **Stations of the Cross:** at St Joseph's every Friday night of Lent at 7pm.

This Weekend in the Parish

Rite of Enrolment First Holy Communion - all Masses
Fijian Choir Saturday 6pm Mass St Joseph's
Supper after Saturday night Mass
School Sponsored Mass 9.30am Christ the King
Morning Tea after 9.30am Mass Christ the King
Sausage Sizzle 6pm Mass Christ the King

Catholic Women's League Meeting

9.30am Tuesday 5th March - Parish Centre Graceville

Navigating the Aged Care System

Presented by Jim Toohey, President of Carers Queensland,
Tuesday 5th March from 2.30pm—4pm,
Parish Centre, 19 Randolph St Graceville.
Please phone the parish office to book.

ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGIES

(Day of Fast and Abstinence)

Mass 7pm TUESDAY 5th March - Christ the King
Mass 8.30am WEDNESDAY 6th March - St Joseph's
Combined Schools Liturgy 10am ASH WEDNESDAY
6th March - St Joseph's Hall Corinda

Parish Choir Rehearsal

7.30pm Thursday 7th March at Christ the King Church
Phone Margaret Lawless on 0431 904 633

St Vincent De Paul Meeting

8am Friday 8th March - Parish Office Corinda

PARISH YOUTH GROUP **FOR HIGH SCHOOL AGED STUDENTS**

Friday 8th March, 6.30pm to 8.30pm, with dinner!
St Joseph's Hall Corinda

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

7pm EACH FRIDAY NIGHT DURING LENT
AT ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH
Commencing Friday 8th March

PARISH CRAFT GROUP

9.30 am Wednesday 13th March at Parish Centre

MOTHERS WITH CHILDREN MORNING TEA

Friday 15th March at 9.30am.

Children's Liturgy Room, Corinda, entry via Parish Car Park

BOOK CLUB

Meets at the Parish Office on Friday 15th March at 2pm.
Please bring a plate to share for afternoon the tea

Presentation Sisters Farewell Celebration

After 82 years at Graceville, ministering at Christ the King School, across the parish, and throughout the district, the Presentation Sisters have withdrawn from Graceville.

A Mass of Thanksgiving and Farewell will be celebrated at 9.30am on Sunday 17th March at Christ the King Church.

All are invited to this most special occasion, to give thanks to God for all that the Sisters have given to our parish and to say thank you and farewell to the Sisters themselves.

Calling all cooks

An integral part of the Alpha program is to provide a cooked evening meal to the guests. If there is anyone able to cook up a simple dish for freezing, please contact Lyn Vickerson on 0407 144 033. Lyn will advise you as to what meals are required, and hey presto – a little pressure is off the Alpha team *and* the guests will continue to have lovely home-cooked meals.

Statement from Archbishop Mark Coleridge, **President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference**

The news of Cardinal George Pell's conviction on historical child sexual abuse charges has shocked many across Australia and around the world, including the Catholic Bishops of Australia.

The Bishops agree that everyone should be equal under the law, and we respect the Australian legal system. The same legal system that delivered the verdict will consider the appeal that the Cardinal's legal team has lodged. Our hope, at all times, is that through this process, justice will be served.

In the meantime, we pray for all those who have been abused and their loved ones, and we commit ourselves anew to doing everything possible to ensure that the Church is a safe place for all, especially the young and the vulnerable.



Those affected by abuse and misconduct by Church personnel need to be supported and encouraged to speak their truth. Their voices need to be heard. Disclosures of this nature should be made to the Professional Standards Office Qld, either by:

Email Fill in a [Professional Standards disclosure form](#) (accessed via our website psqld.catho.ic.net.au) and email it to psqld@catholic.net.au

Post Fill in a [Professional Standards disclosure form](#) and post it to us at: **PO Box 3264, Brisbane Qld 4001**

Phone 1800 337 928 OR (07) 3324 3070
Office hours 9.00am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday
(excepting public holidays)

We pray for the good health, strength and healing of: Gary Ahearn, Imogen Atkins, Fleur Bennell, Trevor Butler, Alan Carr, Alexander Clark, Beryl Clark, Carmel Cole, Freddy Collins, Patrick Collins, Sr Felicity Corder pbvm, Bob Cowan, Jack Dennis, Anne-Marie Deschamps, Celine Doherty, Peter Doyle, Trevor Fanton, Betty Ferguson, Chris Ferguson, Nash Giles, Irene Hannon, Sayako Hattori, Clare Hickey, Ned Hiller, Sr Jo Kenny olsh, Berndt Krogull, Monica Lampe, Sara Lawless, Derek MacLean, Sr Pat Mawn olsh, Gordon McCormack, Neil McCormack, Norma McCormack, Patrick McKenna, John McNamara, Maureen McNamara, Morgan Mollard, Sr Valerian O'Brien olsh, June O'Callaghan, Luke O'Reilly, Taavi Orupold, Maureen Orr, Emma Parer, Mark Parer, Sr Eleanor Parker olsh, Jo Parsons, Madeline Pride, Br Luke Quinn cfc, Carmel Radford, Sr Bernadetta Robinson olsh, Theresa Sarrell, Mary Shand, Christopher Skipper, Lea Tate, Conor Tweedy, Grant Wallace, Rebecca Wallace, Genevieve Waters, Frank Zubeldia *We remember especially all of our parishioners living in aged care facilities*

May those who have died recently rest in peace: Tiiu Orupold, Joan Dippelsman

We pray for those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Murray Pine, Judith Massey, Joan Crowley, May Markey, Madonna McCarthy, Margaret Morgan, Joseph Pace, Catherine Rogers, Terence Edey, Ronald Parker, Julie McHugh

WEEKDAY LITURGIES

Monday 9.00 am St Joseph's – Liturgy of the Word

Ash Wednesday

Tuesday 7.00 pm Christ the King – Mass

Wednesday 8.30 am St Joseph's – Mass
10.00am SJ School – Liturgy of the Word
(Combined Schools Liturgy)

Thursday 9.00 am St Joseph's – Mass

Friday 9.30 am Christ the King – Mass

Saturday 8.00 am St Joseph's – Prayer of the Church

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday 6.00 pm St Joseph's

Sunday 8.00 am St Joseph's
9.30 am Christ the King
6.00 pm Christ the King

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturday 5.00 pm – 5.30 pm St Joseph's

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Baptism for Children is celebrated by appointment on the following Sunday's of the month

2nd Sunday 11.00 am St Joseph's

4th Sunday 11.00 am Christ the King

All enquiries to the Parish Office

PRAYER GROUPS

Wednesday 9.00 am Gospel Reflection Group (ph. 3878 2414)

Friday 7.30 pm Community of the Risen Lord
Catholic Charismatic Prayer Group
Christ the King Church, Graceville
Praise, Worship, Adoration & Message

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUPS

Tuesday 5.30 pm 34 Mortlake Rd, Graceville (ph. 3379 2581)

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Printed so that users may live daily in the spirit of the Prayer of the Church)

EIGHTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

SUN, 3 MAR 8th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME
Sirach 27:4-7; 1 Cor 15:54-58; Lk 6:39-45

MON, 4 MAR St Casimir - *Optional Memorial*
Sirach 17:24-29; Mk 10:17-27

TUE, 5 MAR Sirach 35:1-12; Mk 10:28-31

LENT

WED, 6 MAR ASH WEDNESDAY (*Fast and abstinence*)
Joel 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20 - 6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

THU, 7 MAR Sts Perpetua and Felicity, martyrs
- *Optional Memorial*
Deut 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25

FRI, 8 MAR St John of God, religious - *Optional Memorial*
Is 58:1-9; Mt 9:14-15

SAT, 9 MAR St Frances of Rome, religious - *Optional Memorial*
Is 58:9-14; Lk 5:27-32

FIRST WEEK OF LENT

SUN, 10 MAR FIRST SUNDAY of LENT
Deut 26:4-10; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13

HYMNS AND RESPONSES FOR SUNDAY MASSES

GATHERING: "AS WE GATHER AT YOUR TABLE"

1. As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence,
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's vict'ry known
2. Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.
3. Grant us vision, gracious Spirit to seek guests to share that feast
where triumphant love will welcome
those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

"PSALM 92: LORD, IT IS GOOD"



Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

PREPARATION OF GIFTS: "TAKE OUR BREAD"

Refrain: Take our bread we ask you, take our hearts we love you
Take our lives, Oh Father we are yours, we are yours.

1. Yours as we stand at the table you set,
Yours as we eat the bread our hearts can't forget
We are the sign of your life with us yet, we are yours, we are yours.
2. Your holy people standing washed in your blood,
Spirit filled yet hungry we await your food
We are poor but we've brought ourselves the best we could
We are yours, we are yours.

COMMUNION: "TASTE AND SEE"

Refrain: Taste and see, taste and see, the goodness of the Lord.
O taste and see, taste and see, the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.

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Holy Cross Funerals

Phone 3293 0555

info@holycrossfunerals.com

www.holycrossfunerals.com

A Lenten Retreat - Called by Name into Union with Christ and Empowered to Live as Children of the Light.

Friday 15th March 10am - 1pm - at the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, 19 Randolph St Graceville.

There is the opportunity to commence this time of reflection with Mass at 9.30 am. Following Mass at 10am we will gather to reflect upon some key Scriptures that reveal the desire of Jesus to be one with us and to lead us ever deeper into relationship with Himself. He wants us to live the life of His Kingdom to the full and allow His life to flow through us to touch and transform our world. This time of reflection is designed to help us in our Lenten journey and to prepare us to celebrate more fully the great feast of Easter. How can we open our hearts up even more to receive the rich treasures of His victory over death and new life and walk in His power and strength into the future.

**RSVP by Friday 8th March by calling us at the Atrium on 3379 8635,
or contacting Melissa Lonergan at sc.corindagraceville@bne.catholic.net.au**

2019 Family Lent Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
During Lent, penance should be not only inward and individual, but also outward and social. (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy 110)		5 Shrove Tuesday Pancakes are a traditional dish to use up ingredients not allowed in Lent	6 Ash Wednesday Turn away from sin and believe the good news. Go to Mass and wear the cross of ashes	7 As a family, support Project Compassion during Lent	8 Fast from social media	9 Make a family cross from bark found on a walk & place it in the centre of the dinner table
10 1st Sunday of Lent Trusting As a family read Luke 4:1-13	11 Project Compassion asks us to pray for people in Zimbabwe this week	12 With your family, say a prayer of thanks before each meal throughout Lent	13 At bedtime, pray for someone you have hurt	14 Look for a chance to help someone without being asked	15 Fast from worrying & trust God instead	16 Look around home for clues that you have been baptised
17 2nd Sunday of Lent Transforming As a family read Luke 9:28-36	18 St Patrick Wear something green today and learn about St Patrick	19 St Joseph spouse of Mary Read a bible story about Joseph	20 Project Compassion asks us to pray for people in Indonesia this week	21 At bedtime, thank God for plants and trees that give us fresh air	22 Fast from television	23 Look after God's Creation by saving electricity
24 3rd Sunday of Lent Risking As a family read Luke 13:1-9	25 The Annunciation of the Lord Angels bring good news. Be an angel today	26 Project Compassion asks us to pray for people in Solomon Islands this week	27 At bedtime, thank God for someone who helped you today	28 Pay attention to someone you are tempted to ignore	29 Fast from criticising other people	30 Go for a walk and pray for your neighbours
31 4th Sunday of Lent Reconciling As a family read Luke 15:1-3, 11-32	1 Project Compassion asks us to pray for First Australian people this week	2 Check times in your parish & go to Reconciliation to prepare for Easter	3 Write a note to your teacher thanking them for their help in term 1	4 At bedtime, pray for people affected by drought	5 Fast from electronic games	6 Play a game together as a family
7 5th Sunday of Lent Encountering As a family read John 8:1-11	8 At bedtime, thank God for all the graces you received today	9 Project Compassion asks us to pray for people in Bangladesh this week	10 Before you respond to people: Stop, breathe, & think	11 At bedtime, thank God for the gift of each person in your family	12 Fast from sweet treats	13 Put on some dance music and dance with your family
14 Palm Sunday Redeeming As a family read Luke 23:1-49	15 Project Compassion asks us to pray for people in Vietnam this week	16 At bedtime, pray for those being welcomed into the Church this Easter	17 Research 'Easter Triduum' and tell someone what you learnt	18 Thursday of the Lord's Supper I have given you an example John 13:15	19 Friday of the Passion of the Lord And bowing his head he gave up the spirit. John 19:30	20 Holy Saturday Look after God's Creation by saving water
21 Sunday of the Resurrection ...he has risen... Luke 24:5 Alleluia! Alleluia!	<p><i>God ... offers us each year the season of Lent as a 'sacramental sign of our conversion'. Lent summons us, and enables us to come back to the Lord wholeheartedly and in every aspect of our life.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Pope Francis</p>					

Words on the Pell conviction for the weekend 2/3 March 2019.

I know some people are wanting to hear words about the complex issues that have so occupied the media this past week. I've also been told that some don't want to hear anything about these matters mentioned at all in Church, an impossible situation to be put in from my perspective.

The fact is there are 3 reasons why I have nothing to say at this time.

1. I'm as gobsmacked, saddened, angry, disappointed, shocked, mortified, mystified and every other human emotion, as are so many.

2. Furthermore, I've no special or extra knowledge that isn't already in the public media; no emails or guidance from the Archdiocese apart from what's in the Newsletter; no meetings, phone calls, discussions or conferences that can be of help or shed any new light.

3. Lastly, the conviction is being appealed. Until that appeal is worked through the normal legal avenues I respect the judicial process of our country, as must we all.

I urge anyone with a complaint to go to the authorities and register their matter. If I can help someone in doing so I will.

In the interim I ask that we firmly focus on Jesus Christ, His Good News and our care of and loving service to each other.

Thank you, as we move into celebrating this Mass together.

Fr. Mark Percival. MA,PP.

Corinda Graceville Catholic Parish.

A word to the entire community of the Archdiocese of Brisbane

These last few weeks have been bruising for the Catholic Church in Australia. It seems that everywhere we turn we see stories about the Church and its failures with child sexual abuse. We have to accept that. The Church will never walk away from its responsibilities in this area. We have much to atone for. We have much to do and much to continue learning.

But today I want to say a word about the Church that's almost never mentioned in mainstream media. It's the Church that you're part of every day and, often enough, through the night as well. Because of what you do, the Church changes lives for the better, and it does so through the power of the Gospel. Yes, we face serious challenges now, but there is a whole dimension of the Church that should never be forgotten.

It's the Church that works every day with refugees who have come to Australia seeking a better life. You help them to find accommodation, to fight for a permanent stay and to reunite with loved ones.

It's the Church that works on the frontline with domestic violence victims. You help them and their children in the toughest moments that they will face. You walk with them at every step, especially when they feel helpless.

It's the Church that works with Australians with a disability. You help create a society that welcomes, includes and respects people with a disability as people first – and you support them to follow their dreams.

It's the Church that works with people on the poverty line. You provide them with accommodation, meals and support when they have nowhere else to turn.

It's the Church that works with the homeless. You bring a friendly smile, food and warmth to them. Most of all, you help by spending time with them.

It's the Church that works with people living with dementia. You brighten their lives, you relate to the real person and you provide support for their families.

It's the Church that provides pastoral support to prisoners. You sit with them, listen to their stories and provide counselling.

It's the Church that works to protect our environment. You help raise awareness of our common home, the earth on which we live and the need to preserve it for those who come after us.

Of course, it's **the Church that has educated millions of Australian children over generations.** Your work in that area continues to have a major impact on our young people and the future of our country.

And it's **the Church that has provided first-class medical treatment in our hospitals for generations.** You have literally saved lives and continue to save lives. You have also accompanied the dying with tender care.

Thank you for all this and more – because that's not an exhaustive list of what you do from day to day in the Catholic Church.

At this time, I wanted you to know that your work is priceless and that it does not go unrecognised. Thank you for your work in parishes, schools, hospitals and on the frontline wherever it may be.

It's work that should make you both proud and humble - proud for what has been achieved and humble before the God whose gifts make it all possible and who is as close to us now as ever before.

+Mark Coleridge