

PROJECT COMPASSION 2020

School Newsletter Notices

We encourage schools to include information about Project Compassion in their weekly newsletter.

In addition to these short newsletter notices, we have written reflections linking the Sunday scripture readings with the stories featured each week during Lent which you also might like to use. You can download the staff reflections from our Project Compassion website: lent.caritas.org.au

If you would like any other information, logos or photos, please email us: education@caritas.org.au

Ash Wednesday – 26th February 2020

(insert into school newsletter week beginning Monday 24th February)

This week the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, which also marks the beginning of the annual Caritas Australia Project Compassion Appeal. Donations to Project Compassion allow Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, to work with local communities around the world to alleviate poverty, hunger, oppression and injustice.



We encourage you to put your compassion into action this Lent through your prayer, fasting and almsgiving by supporting Project Compassion. Each family will receive a Project Compassion box and/or a set of envelopes for their donations or you can donate online via our website at lent.caritas.org.au

Let's Go Further, Together!

First Week of Lent

(School Week beginning 2nd March)

- Around 2.8 million children in the Philippines do not go to school.*

We begin Project Compassion learning about the story of Shirley. Shirley was struggling to support her family and keep her children in school. She faced regular discrimination and disadvantage, limiting her family's access to food, education, employment and healthcare.

With Caritas Australia's support, Shirley trained to become an indigenous health worker. She has learnt to supplement her income and is able to feed her family. The program has also empowered Shirley to send her children to school. Watch a short film about Shirley's story:

[Primary school film](#) [General film](#)

Let's Go Further, Together! Please support the Project Compassion: lent.caritas.org.au

**UNICEF Philippines*



Second Week of Lent

(School week beginning 9th March)

- In Cambodia, 1 in 8 people live below the poverty line.*

This week through Project Compassion we learn about Phany (pronounced Parn-ee).

Struggling to earn a living as a farmer in Cambodia, Phany was forced to leave her daughter behind in the village to take up construction work in the city.

Thankfully, through a Caritas funded program, Phany learnt new farming techniques which enabled her to get a better yield from her vegetable crops and to conserve water in her drought-stricken region. Phany's community also took part in training in health, nutrition, hygiene and disaster preparedness, arming them with better strategies to cope with environmental changes. Watch a [short film](#) about Phany's story.

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*Source: WFP



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Third Week of Lent

(School week beginning 16th March)

Project Compassion, Week 3, brings you the story of Barry, a Gamilaroi man originally from western NSW. Barry is a father of four and he embodies resilience and strength. Growing up in a tough environment, he had to look inside himself to make the right choices for himself and his family.

Barry, and others like him, were able to take part in a cultural healing program called Red Dust Healing. This program encourages participants to examine their own personal hurt and allows them to heal from within, addressing family and personal relationships and what may have been life-long patterns of violence, abuse and neglect.

Your support of Project compassion can help build a brighter future for people like Barry through the Red Dust Healing program.

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Fourth Week of Lent

(School week beginning 22nd March)

- In India, over 70 million people live on less than US\$1.90 per day.*

Sakun lives in a village in central north India. She developed polio as a child and has difficulty walking. Until now Sakun, an indigenous Gond woman, has been isolated in her community, unable to earn a livelihood and without knowledge of government schemes that could help her.

In 2018, Sakun joined a Caritas Australia-funded program which is implemented by Caritas India and its local partner, Samarthan. With your help Sakun now earns her own income and makes a small profit which goes towards her family's basic needs. She is more resilient, more confident and more independent. Watch a [short film](#) about Sakun's story. Let's Go Further, Together! Please support Project Compassion: lent.caritas.org.au

*Source: <https://worldpoverty.io/>



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Fifth Sunday of Lent

(School week beginning 28th March)

- In Malawi, 18% of the population are undernourished *

Tawonga is a 10-year-old girl, living with a disability. She lives in a village in northern Malawi in a region plagued by food insecurity and poverty. For most of her life, her parents have struggled to provide food for the family.

Since participating in a Caritas Australia supported program, Tawonga's life has transformed. Her family now grows enough food to provide three meals a day, ending the struggle of malnutrition, and helping her thrive at school.

With your help, this transformational program can continue to empower vulnerable women, men and children, and strengthen the communities around them. Watch a [short film](#) about Tawonga's story.

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*Source: [World Bank](#)



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Holy Week (This story is not suitable for Primary Schools.)

(School week beginning 5th April)

The final week of Project Compassion brings you the story of Dominic, a father of six from Papua New Guinea. In 2016, he became involved with Caritas Australia's partner, Centre of Hope, who runs safe house and family anonymous programs, turning a difficult life and an unhappy relationship around.

Now a community trainer, he works with other men to help them to change their behaviour and build more harmonious family lives.

"Entering the Caritas program...has really opened my mind and heart to see where my weaknesses are and I'm trying to improve," Dominic says.

Please help support the Safe House project and help bring greater harmony to families in Papua New Guinea. A brighter future for men, women and their families can start today.

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Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion Campaign.

Your generosity will work for the freedom of those living in poverty, challenge unjust structures, and empower people to work for a sustainable way of life.

Please return all Project Compassion boxes or envelopes to the school office by Friday 1st May or make a donation online via the Caritas website at lent.caritas.org.au

